

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, October 18, 2012

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Surprise throw

Unexpected anniversary present lands for couple

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Dance for joy

Youngsters enjoying their success in examinations

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Seven heaven

Old Halesonians carry on with their winning form

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Municipal building goes for fire base

DEMOLITION of the former Municipal Building in Cradley Heath is well under way – paving the way for the building of a £3 million fire station.

The former landmark council block on Barrs Road is being taken down to make way for a fire station, which will serve Halesowen and Cradley Heath.

Much of the pre-Second World War building has been reduced to rubble. The scheme will eventually include dedicating part of the site for parking to be used by Sandwell Leisure Trust for visitors to Haden Hill Leisure Centre.

Costs of providing the new building will be offset by the generation of an estimated £1.5m from the sale of the two sites.

The fire station will have a glass-fronted reception area, and house one engine and have three bays for other fire service vehicles.

Engines will enter and exit off Halesowen Road, and traffic signals will be used to make it safe.

Site manager Mike Finnigan said: "The structural demolition is now well under way. The main challenge has been the building's location in a busy area next to a main road. We have had to make to make sure the site is secured."

Ex-councillor dies, aged 79

A LONG-SERVING councillor and former mayor of Dudley has died aged 79.

Tributes have been paid to Malcolm Knowles, who represented the Wollaston ward.

The father of three, who lived with his wife Shirley Anne in Oldswinford, died last week following a short illness. He served on the council between 1975 and 1995.

He was then re-elected in 2002 and was mayor of Dudley in 2004/05.

The current mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, said: "We are all saddened."

2,000 UP IN ARMS AT VILLAGE PLAN

by Adam Burling

MORE than 2,000 people have signed a petition against plans to build a retirement village on a former Cradley school site amid fears parkland will be lost. Developer Midland Heart is forging ahead with plans for the firm's third extra care housing scheme in Dudley borough.

Murder trial accused bailed to return home

A BRIERLEY Hill man accused of murdering his girlfriend at a holiday resort abroad is returning home after he was granted bail at the start of his trial.

Luke Walker, who is accused of beating his girlfriend Chelsea Hyndman to death in Crete, has been allowed to return to the Black Country with his family.

He may work in the family's electrical business in Brierley Hill while he waits for the trial to resume.

The 24-year-old was joined by his family at Heraklion Mixed Court, Greece for the start of the trial this week.

He denies murder, saying Miss Hyndman fell following a night out in the resort town of Malia, where they both lived and worked.

The court sat for less than an hour before adjourning because key prosecution witnesses had not been summoned.

Many of the witnesses in the case had flown in from Britain. Miss Hyndman's mother, Heather, and her family also attended and sat in the front rows of the public gallery.

Walker's solicitor, George Pyromallias, asked that the defendant be allowed to return to England on bail.

Walker has spent the last two-and-a-half years in Crete, initially on remand for five months before he was granted bail on the condition he did not leave the island.

The Walker family were emotional as the court granted bail to the UK. After the hearing, Luke said it was the "best outcome so far". He said: "I haven't even thought about what I'll do when I get home."

It wants to build the scheme on the demolished Cradley High School site near Homer Hill Park. Bosses say they will lodge plans for the independent living scheme with Dudley Council within the next few weeks.

But residents fear part of the park will need to be developed to create access to the site and accommodate extra cars.

The campaign is being spearheaded by the Cradley Community Champions – volunteers nominated to represent the local area.

Val Bloomer, secretary of the Friends of Homer Hill, said the group was worried that nearby routes would become clogged with traffic and access points would have to be built on green space.

She added: "The number of 200 or so people mentioned as being resident in the complex can be added to greatly by visitors, general staff, round-the-clock carers, and suppliers driving through the park, potentially at any time of the day and night, and on every day of the year."

Children

"There would not be a safe time for park users, and in particular children and dog walkers, to enjoy the amenities of the park for sport, exercise or relaxation. To permit access through a park specifically to service a new development would set a dangerous precedent."

"This is exactly how it is being viewed by over 2,000 people from all walks of life, including church leaders, minority groups, football teams, other friends of Dudley parks groups and community champions, who have signed a petition requesting that the former school site be retained for use as green open space."

Nick Byrne, of Midland Heart said: "We have reassured residents that we are considering a number of options including using the former entrance and exit of Cradley High School."



Front, Arthur Cox, with Jill Guest, Ruby Homer, Harry Bloomer and Val Bloomer

Museum trustees called to meeting

CAMPAIGNERS have urged the Black Country Living Museum's trustees to meet them as they fight cost-cutting plans that have put up to 70 jobs at risk.

An action group has written when more than 150 staff, volunteers and museum supporters packed into a public meeting at the Station Hotel in Dudley.

Many are upset about planned changes calling for a meeting to be held as part of a wider consultation. The letter says: "We feel, as does popular opinion, that the action group represents the wishes of the visitors of the museum and those who care for its future."

"It was felt that the museum's latest decision to marginalise guides and cut jobs was beyond the point that people who are concerned for the museum could endure in silence. A unanimous vote agreed that it is the duty of the trustees to meet the representatives of the group and that decision-making must be curbed until it is possible to involve a wider consultation group." At the public meeting earlier this month Professor Carl Chinn said the guides and their stories about the Black Country were essential.

"A unanimous vote agreed that it is the duty of the trustees to meet the representatives of the group and that decision-making must be curbed until it is possible to involve a wider consultation group." At the public meeting earlier this month Professor Carl Chinn said the guides and their stories about the Black Country were essential.

Mosque plea date is set

AN appeal against a High Court decision to throw out controversial plans for a new mosque in Dudley will be heard early next year.

The long-running legal battle over land in Hall Street will return to the courtroom during the first week in February, according to Dudley Council.

Officials from the authority said they had received notification of when the hearing would take place.

Proposals for the mosque were rejected at a hearing in April.

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Church steps up drive for £100,000

A HISTORIC village church has raised more than half of the £100,000 it needs to build new facilities – and is stepping up its campaign to bring in the rest.

A leaflet has gone to homes in Hagley, near Stourbridge, appealing for donations for St John the Baptist church, next to Hagley Hall. A church has been there since Norman times and been rebuilt over the years, with the latest version dating

from the 1850s. The church and Hagley Cricket Club want to create toilet and changing facilities and a meeting room.

Planning permission has been given for a building with three toilets, including one for disabled people, and a meeting room on the cricket pitch, next to the church. It will be in the style of the cricket pavilion and the club will also be able to use the facilities.

Rector, the Rev Richard Newton, said that it was hoped work would commence soon so the building could be ready in time to save having to hire toilets for next year's Hagley Music Festival.

In Contact, the church magazine, he says: "At the moment there is one toilet, which is far from adequate when large numbers of people are using the building and it's not accessible by anyone who is disabled."

"There is nowhere adequate for musicians to change, for children's work or to hold small meetings during the winter without heating the entire church."

The church and club have applied for grants towards the work.

Mr Newton added: "We hope that people who live locally, or who appreciate being able to come to St John's and to its services or events, will be generous and help us."

Two years forecast on theatre reopening plan

CAMPAIGNERS battling to save the Dudley Hippodrome say the former theatre may reopen within two years if plans to give it a new lease of life get the go-ahead.

A public meeting heard the latest on the bid to persuade Dudley Council to rethink its decision to demolish the Castle Hill building. More than 10,000 people have signed a petition calling for it to be saved and reopened.

Actions at odds with rules say experts

THEATRE experts say council plans to demolish the former Dudley Hippodrome are going against government guidelines.

The Theatres Trust, which acts to preserve historic venues, says council actions are at odds with national planning rules safeguarding culturally significant buildings.

Campaigners welcomed the intervention saying it added more weight to the fight to save the Castle Hill landmark from being lost.

Mark Price, trust planning and heritage advisor, has objected to the council's application to demolish the theatre to use the land initially for a car park.

He says it would go against national guidelines saying that the council should, where possible, "guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services", in a letter to the council's planning department.

Mr Price also said in the letter that the authority should instead be looking to develop the Hippodrome as a venue for youth arts activities.

Council chiefs earmarked the site for a temporary car park and lodged an application to flatten the building.

A business plan outlining how it could stage professional and amateur shows, host training workshops and community events was put forward by the Friends of Dudley Hippodrome.

Historian and archaeologist Paul Collins told about 60 people at Dudley's Station Hotel that work was under way to identify possible funding sources.

"We believe we could have the Hippodrome open again within the space of two years. We would start by opening it up for arts workshops while work on the auditorium is completed."

Potential

Performing arts teacher Joanna Roden, who works at Jessons Primary School, Dudley, and runs the Fusion rock choir, said the building had "huge potential".

She said theatres were ranked on size and facilities and it would be 'an A list theatre', meaning it may attract "some of the best shows in the country".

Campaign leader Geoff Fitzpatrick said they would meet the council to discuss their business plan.

"We've already had a lot of support from English Heritage and The Theatres Trust who have spoken out about why the Hippodrome shouldn't be knocked down."

"We've also had support from people in Canada, Texas and the Isle of Man."



At the Hippodrome meeting, from left, are campaign leader Geoff Fitzpatrick, historian Paul Collins and Jessons Primary School teacher Joanna Roden

Narrow vote secures flag for village

PLANS to fly a ceremonial flag in a village won approval but only after a narrow vote.

About 1,000 pupils from three schools will vie to design the flag to be flown in Gornal.

Organisers Gornal Business Watch will get almost £1,390 from North Dudley area committee to fund a flagpole and making the flag ready to unveil on December 1.

Plans got a six to five vote at the commit-

tee after a report said Business Watch had not provided all documentation expected for a grant application. Councillor David Caunt said they should not get the money until all the paperwork was produced.

Councillor Dave Branwood said the dispute was a "technicality" and offered assurances that all documents would be presented to the council in due course.

Go-ahead for zoo's plans on buildings

PLANS to restore some of Dudley Zoo's most famous buildings, including its iconic wave entrance have been given the go-ahead by council chiefs paving the way for work to begin.

Four of the Tecton structures, dating back to 1937, will be restored to their former glory with the help of £1.15 million of lottery cash.

As well as the entrance, the bear ravine, a kiosk and the former Station Cafe – now used as the Safari Shop – will also be refurbished under the scheme.

A planning application for listed building consent was submitted to Dudley Council earlier this year. Permission for the work due to start next year has now been granted by council planners.

Planning officer Pete Boland said: "The granting of listed building consent is justified in that the proposals will have no detrimental impact upon the statutorily listed heritage assets, specifically the Tecton zoo entrance; station café; bear ravine and kiosk."

"On the contrary the repair and reinstatement works will stabilise the structures and improve their appearance."

Safe trick or treat offer

A "SAFE" version of trick or treat is being offered by Stourbridge's Ryemarket shopping centre on October 26.

Youngsters and their parents can enjoy a day of spooky storytelling, follow a trick or treat trail around the centre and find out more about exotic creatures in a creepy crawly roadshow put on by Dudley-based Animal Antics, starting at 10am.

Storytime sessions will be at 10.30am, 11.45am and 1.45pm with trick or treat trails at 11am, 1pm and 2.30pm and a wizard on stilts performing between 11am and 4pm.

Hall history talk

MEMBERS of Clent History Society, near Stourbridge, will hear a talk about Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale at their meeting on October 25.

Local historian Brian Draper will give the talk, which starts at 8pm at Clent Parish Hall in Church Avenue. Admission will cost £2.50 for non-members.

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Parking spaces bid in village

MORE than 20 new car parking spaces are planned for Gornal village if a long-awaited scheme is given the go-ahead.

Residents and traders have campaigned for a shoppers' car park to be created by the council for more than 20 years.

Proposals are now being looked at by Dudley Council and a village councillor said he expected "substantial progress" by the end of the year.

Councillor Stuart Turner said the plan was for around 25 extra spaces to be created on vacant council-owned land off Abbey Street.

He said a basic design outline had now been created following a site meeting with council officers with more detailed plans and costs being drawn up for the project.

Councillor Turner said: "Meetings have now taken place and early plans setting out what we intend to do have been drawn up."

"The total number of spaces has yet to be finalised but looking at the site it is intended around 25 spaces could be created."

"The way parking is in Gornal at the moment even a smaller number of spaces would be a significant help."

Sixth form is to expand

A SIXTH form college in Stourbridge has been given the green light for a £1.3million expansion, despite concerns raised by neighbours.

King Edward VI College has won planning permission from Dudley Council to demolish the old De Saulles building in St John's Road, and replace it with a two-storey maths centre.

Catering for 500 students, the teaching block will consist of seven classrooms, toilets, a reception area and a staff room.

Councillors on the development control committee went with officers' recommendation to approve the proposal.

200 jobs taken

AROUND 200 seasonal jobs at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre are 'more or less filled', according to organisers of a job fair.

A total of 1,500 jobseekers descended on the centre for the fair at the Black Country Skills Shop recently for a range of posts.

Rare barge restoration will cost £62,000



Rare wooden Joey boat Birchills at the museum

FUNDRAISING is under way to help restore a rare wooden Joey boat at the Black Country Living Museum.

Around £62,000 is needed to carry out vital repairs on Birchills which was built in 1953 by Ernest Thomas on his dock at the top of Walsall locks and worked on the run to Birchills Power Station.

When the power station closed, the Joey boat was sent to Hatherton Junction on the Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal and moored on the Hatherton Branch, outside Mr Thomas's house.

Director of development Carolyn Sankey said around £20,000 has been

raised so far towards the restoration work. The museum is also waiting to hear whether large bids for grants have been successful.

Bosses have also said Stour, a long distance wooden built motor boat, built in 1937, is also a priority for restoration work.

Chief executive Andrew Lovett said: "The museum owns 16 boats, eight of which are floating, and of these priority status for major funding and work has been given to wooden boat Birchills, which has been identified as the most important and most vulnerable of the

vessels at the Museum. "We commenced work in 2012 and plan for longer term conservation in 2013. Stour is also in need of work, a survey commissioned by the Museum in 2011, when the boat was in dry dock for works to the hull, gives us the start point for future efforts at raising the necessary funds."

Stour and other boats in the collection receive frequent volunteer attention to check bilge pumps, remove weeds and pump out rain water. The museum is appealing for donations and anyone interested can call 0121 521 3511 or visit the website on www.bclm.com

£2m estate transformation hopes to bring in 130 jobs

UP to 130 jobs could be created with a £2 million transformation of part of a Dudley trading estate which has been approved by borough planners.

In the proposals, three industrial buildings at The Pensnett Estate will be created. It is hoped the plan will breathe new business life into the area, say owners London and Cambridge Properties.

The buildings will include eight small-sized and three medium-sized units designed for new businesses. The units will replace an empty six-storey office block.

The plan will create the opportunity for between 30 and 80 jobs, plus 50 full-time positions during the nine-month construction period, which will begin in the New Year.

The scheme can go ahead after Dudley Council approved the planning application, describing it as 'acceptable' due to its creation of employment.

Margaret Hopkins, marketing manager for the estate owner, said: "This is good news for small businesses searching for a suitable place for a new base."

"There are not enough secure places where businesses can start, we have noticed this and come to address it with this scheme. We are confident

by Alex Ross

the units will be filled up and jobs will come to this area."

The scheme will be built in one phase, with opening expected in later summer next year.

Pensnett House - the empty office block - is already being demolished and should be cleared soon.

Disturbance

One objection was made against the plan by a neighbour, who feared disturbance from the site.

But in a report, council planners said: "The design and scale of the proposed buildings is considered to be acceptable, and there is sufficient parking available within the site for use in connection with the development."

"Activities at the site would not have any detrimental impact on residential amenity."

Author cuts ribbon

AN award-winning author has helped cut the ribbon to open a new learning centre at a Stourbridge school.

Alan Durant visited Pedmore Technology College and Community School as guest of honour for the occasion.

The Grange Lane school has opened its new learning centre which includes a library and study areas.

Mr Durant, who has won awards for his works Burger Boy and Football Fever, shared his experiences as an author with key stage three students.



Mike and Hazel Baker celebrate their golden wedding with the tapestry

US friend throws a surprise to couple

A COUPLE celebrating their golden anniversary had a pleasant surprise when they were sent a wedding picture - printed on a tapestry throw.

Mike and Hazel Baker from Wollaston, Stourbridge, received the double bed-sized present from a friend in America.

Mrs Baker, aged 69, said: "When we got it in the post we were both so surprised. We are very grateful." The present was given to the couple by Lily Cayabyab, who lives in St Louis, in Missouri. Mr Baker, 73, and Mrs Baker both grew up in Tipton.

In 1979, Mr Baker started up Lyngrid Contracts, a company which built the glass roofs for the Merry Hill shopping centre.

The pair sold the company and retired in 1999. They have two children, Fiona, 42, and Victoria, 39, and four grandchildren.

The pair received £1,500 in donations for NHS Dudley Group's primary care neurology fund at their party at the Cophorne Hotel on September 8 after Mr Baker, who suffers from Parkinson's, received therapy and treatment from the group.

NEWS in brief

Plans to improve care for babies

PLANS to improve a baby unit at a Worcestershire hospital have been announced.

The Transitional Care Unit helps premature babies who may have difficulties learning to feed.

The unit at Worcestershire Royal Hospital in Worcester also provides the extra care and support mothers need.

Improvement plans aim to create a larger facility by increasing the bed capacity to a six-bed bay, the unit currently has five beds.

Future of centre has been secured

THE future of Worcestershire's outdoor education centre in Wales has been secured after a charity that provides adventures for young people agreed to run it.

Worcestershire County Council in November last year invited expressions of interest in providing the service at Llanrug, North Wales.

Now the council has reached an agreement with Rock UK, a charitable company, which will take over delivery of the service from April 1.

New shop to help young find work

A Mary Portas-style "pop-up" shop will be opened for a month in Dudley to seek out unemployed teenagers looking for jobs.

It will open from October 26 to November 23. The Black Country Training Group (BCTG) will take over a former estate agent's shop in Stone Street. The shop is being opened by Dudley North MP Ian Austin at 2pm.

Training academy officially opened

KIDDERMINSTER'S new £10 million training academy has been officially launched by Business and Skills Minister Matthew Hancock.

Around 1,000 students will use the The Academy, which offers courses ranging from fashion, hospitality, retail to the development of software applications.

Homes by canal

A CONTRACTOR will build 44 homes on a former industrial site by the Dudley Canal, Netherton. GC Netherton will build on the former Tinsley Works site off Northfield Road.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



CAN you believe the luck of that Abu Hamza? A reader assures me the Christmas panto at the Manhattan Metropolitan Correction Centre this year is going to be Peter Pan.

JUST remember, as food prices start rising and manufacturers blame it all on poor grain harvests around the world, that raw materials make up only a small part of the price of modern foods. In a simple loaf, the flour accounts for only 10 per cent of the total price. In highly processed foods the proportion is even less. So a 30 per cent hike in grain prices should not cause huge price rises in the supermarkets – but profiteering in the board rooms most certainly will.

TWO weeks ago The Food Hospital (C4) sang the praises of watercress. The next day our local and usually well-stocked market, was sold out of watercress in a couple of hours. Remember the Delia effect? More than 10 years ago Delia Smith's TV tips resulted in soaring sales of cranberries and capers.

And when she described her favourite metal pan as "a little gem," the firm making them, which had been selling only 200 a year, turned out 90,000 in the next four months. Now, The Food Hospital claims blueberries could improve our brain power. Has the panic-buying of blueberries begun?

MEANWHILE, what a revelation Savile's 1978 autobiography is turning out to be. This is the book that should have been Exhibit A for the prosecution. Relating the tale of one young girl who threw herself at him, Savile says: "Should the reader feel that her folks appear unconcerned, you would not believe the stories I might tell you about some parents."

It seems the DJ was referring to parents who don't give a damn what their kids are doing so long as there is a chance, however remote, of fame and fortune. So what's new? There is a long and shameful showbiz tradition of ambitious mothers delivering their daughters to the producer's casting couch. It may suit police, BBC bosses and Savile's colleagues to claim that the DJ's behaviour was hidden by a conspiracy of silence. The truth is that it was there, in black and white, for anyone to read.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Historic ex-foundry to be £8.5m health centre

A £8.5 MILLION health centre will be built in Stourbridge to serve 26,000 patients after a deal allowing work to start at the grade II listed former Foster, Rastrick and Co foundry, Lowndes Road in Wollaston.

Turnaround for school after notice

STAFF at a school in Halesowen have received praise from education watchdogs for raising pupils' achievement – eight months after being given a notice to improve.

Ofsted inspectors found a decline in children's achievement at Caslon Primary School had been halted since their last visit in January, with many pupils now making 'good' progress.

The report stated the turnaround was down to the closer monitoring of children's learning and teachers' performance.

Mr Pemberton, who has been head for two years, said he was pleased with the report, adding he believed the school was among the most improved in the Dudley district.

The former factory will become a 30,000 sq ft centre with space for up to 10 GPs.

Approval for plans was given two years ago. A contract to finance it has been finalised, with work due to start after a deal between Worcester Street Medical Practice and developer Primary Health Properties PLC, which is providing funding.

Primary Health Properties will lease the centre on a 25-year contract to the GP practice when building is complete.

Services will include a pharmacy and a community health staff base. Dr Carol Griffiths, Executive Partner at the Worcester Street practice, said it was expected to open early in 2014.

"The partners are very excited that this scheme has come to fruition and are planning the new services they will be able to provide in the building which they will be discussing with patients as the build progresses," she said.

Partners have yet to decide on a name but say it will reflect the site's history.

Despite its historic status, the building has fallen into a dilapidated condition.

Nuisance bike is crushed



Site manager Matthew Hayward and Pc Reg Steele at Simms Metals, Halesowen

POLICE have crushed an off road motorbike which they seized following concerns from residents living on a Dudley estate.

They claimed a teenager was seen riding the £300 Stomp Pit dirt bike dangerously close to homes and was disturbing them.

Officers seized the bike from its young rider earlier this year after catching the teenager in the Netherton and Dudley Wood area.

The bike was taken to Sims Metal Management scrapyard, Cradley, where it was crushed.

Bosses at the James Scott Road firm have donated £100 towards a community event.

The teenager did not have a licence, insurance, tax or an MoT for the bike which was being ridden illegally.

PC Reg Steele, of the Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood policing team, said "This sends out a positive message to young people that there is a consequence of their actions."

Firework display at town club cancelled

AN annual bonfire and fireworks display in Stourbridge has been cancelled this year over fears bad weather could result in financial loss.

The town's football and cricket clubs called off the event, at the War Memorial Athletic Ground in Ambleside, after three years of falling attendances resulted in a loss of around £1,000 last year.

Club officials say the event's demise was down to the moving of dates, loss of a bonfire last year – but mainly down to drab weather on the night of the event.

Although cancelling it this year, they have not ruled out it returning next year.

The event was launched in 1998 and at its height attracted more than 3,000 people.

Stourbridge Football Club chairman Andy Poutney said: "Over the past three years poor weather has limited the numbers."

Nursery to grow

A nursery in Dudley has been granted permission to extend its premises to provide more playing space.

Treetops Nursery, Manderston Close, will now build the two storey extension at the rear. During the work, the nursery will remain open for up to 75 children at any one time.

dudley

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Garage to be centre of learning

A DISUSED garage near homes in the Black Country will be turned into an Islamic education centre under new plans.

If it gets the go-ahead the unit, in Cinder Bank, will be taken over by Netherton Islamic Trust, which currently uses an adjoining terraced house.

The plans have been recommended for approval by Dudley Council's development control committee.

A statement by bosses at the trust says: "The application has been submitted to enhance the existing educational facility within the adjoining Islamic learning workshop rather than increasing student numbers."

"The present centre has no dedicated parking and this application would provide at least 12 off road spaces for staff and visitors accessed from the existing entrance. The number of students are approximately 30 at each class and these are staged, running between 4pm and 6.30pm."

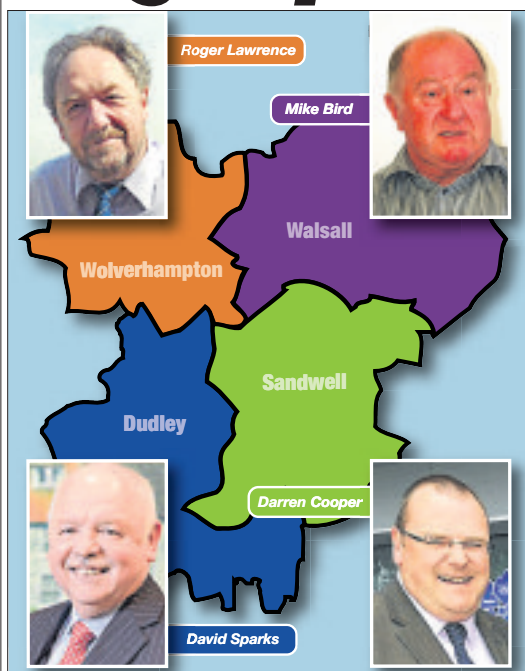
"It is important to note this activity takes place from the adjacent site and therefore the application is about improving the quality of service provision."

Ballroom dance

BALLROOM and sequence dancing will take place at Lutley Community Centre, Halesowen on October 20.

Stephen Gill will provide the music on orchestral keyboards. The dance starts at 7.30pm. Tickets £5, including a light supper. Call Irene Layton on 0121 550 8631.

Discussion on creating one mighty authority in region



The areas that make up the Black Country region and their respective leaders

IT is a problem that has plagued the Black Country for years. How does it punch its weight against big cities like Birmingham and Manchester? Council Walsall on matters of joint importance.

In the Black Country the councils already work together but major projects such as the extension of the Midland Metro out to the Merry Hill shopping centre have failed to make the government's list of priorities while Birmingham was granted funding to take the trams to New Street.

If a joint authority was created the four councils of the Black Country may be able to share services in planning and housing, public protection, regeneration and health, particularly at a time when primary care trusts are due to be dissolved and many of their powers transferred over to councils.

The Labour leader of Wolverhampton City Council, Roger Lawrence, is keen to pursue a body similar to the recently launched Greater Manchester Authority which would oversee transport and regeneration.

Councillor Darren Cooper, Labour leader of Sandwell Council, agrees while Councillor David Sparks, Labour leader of Dudley Council, would prefer to go further and explore merging the authorities completely. Only Mike Bird, Conservative leader of Walsall Council, wants to keep things as they are.

Integration

Councillor Sparks said: "I've always been in favour of the closest possible integration of the four authorities. In my ideal world that would be one Black Country authority. But we're not in my ideal world and we should look at a combined authority similar to that in Greater Manchester or Yorkshire."

"The current boundaries of the Black Country are completely irrational. My own ward of Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood is next to Cradley Heath and Old Hill in Sandwell and I defy anybody to point out where the boundary is."

"There was a partial reorganisation of the Black Country in 1966 and that was the time when a single authority should have been established."

"The main priority now needs to be a single co-ordi-

leaders are in discussions about whether to create a new tier of local government that would act on behalf of Dudley, Sandwell, Wolverhampton and

Could the Black Country become an economic powerhouse if its four regions were merged into one? Political Editor DANIEL WAINWRIGHT reports

nated, strategic approach on issues such as regeneration and transport which clearly go across local authority boundaries."

He said he hoped to meet other leaders towards the end of the month to decide how to proceed. Councillor Lawrence said: "There are some discussions going on about creating a combined authority. It will not be a unitary authority."

"All the councils would carry on as they are in regards to services like bin collections and children and young people."

"A combined authority, like what they have now in Greater Manchester, would cover things like transport and strategic economic regeneration."

"The transport needs of the Black Country go beyond our borders, such as talk of a link road from the M54 to the M6 Toll road or freight depots."

The Black Country already has a body called the Black Country Consortium funded by the authorities that works to boost inward investment, sport and tourism.

Sandwell Council leader Darren Cooper believes an authority with political leadership would be able to do more. He said: "I wouldn't want a unitary authority because we could end up like Birmingham where that localism and the closeness of the community is lost."

Councillor Bird said: "I think we already work well together."

Paul Bennett, president of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce called for a debate on the idea. Dudley Labour MP Ian Austin, a former West Midlands regional minister, has backed the calls.

He said: "In the coming years there will be tens of thousands of jobs created in growth areas."

NEWS in brief

Games park now set to be unveiled

A NEW multi-use games area is to be unveiled in Halesowen following a five-year campaign by a ward councillor and a voluntary group.

Plans to build the all-weather sports facility in Highfields Park were shelved in 2007. But then campaigners from the Hope Centre in Belle Vale, together with the support of Councillor Jill Nicholls, helped organise a petition in a bid to get the council to start work. Councillor Nicholls said she was delighted to see the project become a reality.

New trees to be planted in park

NEW trees will be planted in a Dudley park after campaigners secured the help of conservationists.

More than 400 saplings will be placed in King George V Park, Wordsley, thanks to the parkland's friends group.

They have been given a free pack of saplings from the Woodland Trust to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The trees will be delivered next month for a ceremonial planting on November 17.

Behind the scenes

THE museum at Hartlebury Castle, is to allow visitors to learn more about its collections during an open day on October 24.

Visitors will get a private, behind-the-scenes tour of the museum's off-site stores from 11am to 12.30pm.

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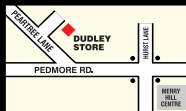
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NEWS

Dancing with joy



Dance teachers Jade Howells and Louise Edwards with youngsters from the academy

YOUNG dancers in the Black Country are celebrating after waltzing their way to success in their exams.

The pupils from Avia Dance Academy who train at the George Salter Academy, Claypit Lane, West Bromwich, and the Brook Street Community Centre, Tipton, were delighted to all pass their dance exams.

While the 70 youngsters, who are aged between three and 16, all passed, more than 20 of them gained the top honours grade. The dancers learn both street dance and freestyle, and the academy also offers lessons in contemporary dance. Jade Howells who runs the dance school said: "I am really very proud of them all. They have all worked so very hard, and these are our best grades yet."

Members of the academy are now gearing up for their annual presentation evening this week. Anyone interested in joining the group should contact Ms Howells on 07870 738826.

Thieves are raiding 25 cars a week in the region

THIEVES are targeting an average of 25 cars a week in the Black Country, with sat navs, power tools and laptops being some of the most common items to be stolen.

by Shaun Jepson

Police across the region are stepping up their efforts to tackle the issue, particularly in the run-up to Christmas, which is when vehicles are often targeted because of gifts being left on display.

Figures show there were 716 vehicle crime incidents in the region in September and a further 768 in August.

A total of those crimes 306 were in Dudley, 472 in Sandwell, and 358 in Walsall and 343 in Wolverhampton.

Ch Insp Darren Walsh, from West Midlands Police, said the force was committed to tackling car crime.

"Tactics - including the use of capture cars, robust offender management and the criminal anti-social behaviour orders - continue to be used to drive vehicle crime down even further," he said.

"While we will not reveal specific details on how criminals are stealing or breaking into cars, in the vast

majority of cases, they are gaining access to the vehicle by smashing a side window to steal items left on display.

"These range from power tools, laptops, sat navs, items of clothing and even lose change.

"As with all crimes, the police and local people hold the answer to preventing car crime and, by sharing information, they are also central to our ability to bring criminals to justice."

Last week, a parked car was damaged after being set alight in Shawbury Road, Heath Town.

This summer, arsonists set fire to two cars in an attack in Tipton.

The vehicles were set alight on Churchfield Avenue, near to a block of flats.

A Renault Clio was burned out, while a Fiat Diablo was damaged.



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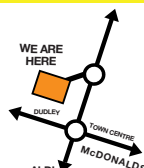
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LETTERS

Smaller authorities not bigger

THE business community's call for a single council for the Black Country falls into the trap of thinking we need the equivalent of Birmingham City Council.

On the contrary we and Brum need much smaller local authorities, working together with a strong democratically accountable West Midlands Regional Government.

Birmingham City Council is the result of a succession of enlargements taking in local communities formerly part of adjoining shire county areas driven by the Whitehall and business led mantra - bigger is better. Today it

neither has the clout to deal with the national or international and it is too big to connect with, and represent, the views of local communities. Just ask folks in Brum what they think.

The Business community acknowledge the significance of devolution of power to regional assemblies in Wales Scotland, Northern Ireland.

As important, has been the establishment and growing impact of the Greater London Authority and its elected Mayor. Nowhere in England have we a comparable set up with the equivalent clout.

The Black Country Business leaders

are calling for some radical ideas and the right framework to deliver implementation expeditiously and efficiently. So, let's go for it and campaign for real change; a downsizing and refocusing of Westminster and Whitehall with their functions and accountability being transferred to a new West Midlands Regional and local community based local government structure.

Black Country people don't need an authority to identify with the Black Country, its history and character.

GEORGE MORRAN
Tipton Road
Woodsetton

Electorate have long memories Cameron

SO David Cameron is promising us a Referendum on our relationship with the EU but not until after the next election.

Is this the same promise he made in his election manifesto at the last election and which he promptly broke once elected?

He obviously considers us with contempt and makes promises he has no intention of keeping and by making these hollow promises the gullible electorate will fall for it.

I will remind him the electorate are not stupid and we do have long memories.

David Cameron talks a good fight but is not prepared to implement what he says and to continually blame the previous Government for the state we are in like a stuck record

REG SEGGER
Swindon

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

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Chronicle Editorial, 51-53
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E-MAIL

dudleychrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Angling for repairs to the big potholes

IN these days of officialdom and correctness, I wonder if anyone can inform me, am I covered by my National River Authority fishing licence, to fish in the Dudley borough's pot holes?

Being a keen angler, I have kept an eye on some of the well established ones, that seem to have been there for years, and can report that there is fish life in most of them.

To any anglers, tempted to try their skills, I would advise you to use traffic cones as protection when fishing, and maybe a flashing beacon when night fishing.

The locations of these pot holes, which are fishable, are easily found as they have been circled with a yellow spray paint. However, this may be faded in some cases, as the paint only lasts two years at the most.

So anglers, make sure you have a current licence, cones and shark repellent.

Good luck, tight lines.
ALAN SMITH (AYNUK)
Arch Hill Street
Netherton

Lack of growth is affecting the deficit

IT is important to remember the current budget deficit came about because of the collapse in tax revenues following the crash of 2008.

Up until that point the UK was running a debt to GDP ratio of about 45 percent which is roughly the same as that run by Margaret Thatcher when she was PM. It is simplistic nonsense to suggest that had any other party been in power in 2008 the situation would have been any different.

The reason the deficit is not coming down is because we have no growth. Confidence in the UK was killed off by the Chancellor's first budget after the Coalition came to power and has not returned, up until then the economy was growing and borrowing was dropping.

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NEWS

Ambulance service calls on support of volunteers

WEST Midlands Ambulance Service is calling on medical workers from a charity to help deal with an increase in emergency calls.

Around 30 full-time workers from St John Ambulance are being used by the service. The recruitment of the 15 two-man crews and their vehicles was triggered as part of a contingency plan by the ambulance service to combat a surge in calls.

The service has already temporarily cancelled much of staff training and essential meetings to deal with the unexpected levels.

Recently, the service revealed it was receiving 2,638 calls a day, up from 2,428 in the same period last year – a rise of 207 calls. Suzie Fothergill, spokeswoman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "West Midlands Ambulance Service can confirm it holds a commercial contract with St John Ambulance."

"Their staff are used to provide assistance to the trust during periods of high demand." "As previously highlighted, the trust is under significant pressure with demand considerably above the levels expected for the time of year."

"We would, however, again ask the public to play their part and think before dialling 999. The trust would like to thank both service and St John Ambulance staff for all their efforts and hard work."

David Human, regional ambulance services manager for St John Ambulance in the West Midlands, said: "Our assistance to West Midlands Ambulance Service is an ongoing contract throughout the year."

Swimming lessons time

CHILDREN can learn to swim at lessons hosted at Dudley borough leisure centres during half term holiday.

Dudley Leisure Centre and Stourbridge's Crystal Leisure Centre will run the classes from October 22 to 26. For information and to book a place call the centre on 01384 812800 or visit www.dudley.gov.uk/sport.

Author returns home



Author Dave Lowe with Joshua Tombs and friends at Ambleside Primary
A CHILDREN'S author returning to his Dudley roots found time to visit pupils for an afternoon talk.

Dave Lowe, now in Australia, called into Ambleside Primary School, School Drive, Ambleside, to chat about his new book, *My Hamster Is A Genius*, and signed

copies for pupils. He also took an answer and question session from the pupils, aged from six to nine. His visit was arranged by the Dudley Children's Book Group. He was born and grew up in Dudley, but moved abroad to teach disadvantaged children.

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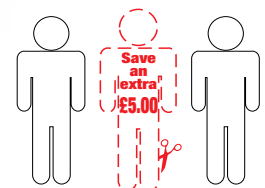
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NEWS

Facebook mother turns detective



Debbie Woodward with the Facebook page she used to track down the stolen motorbike

A MOTHER has used Facebook to turn detective and crack a crime with a dramatic result.

When thieves stole Debbie Woodward's daughter new motorbike, she turned to the networking site as a last resort in tracking it down. A page was set up by a family friend, with photographs of the black Kawasaki, and Mrs Woodward waited patiently for news - not holding out any great hopes of recovering her daughter's motorcycle.

But within three-and-a-half hours someone had left comments on the page, saying they had seen a black bike in a nearby park. Mother-of-two Mrs Woodward and her daughter Emma discovered the bike, which was a 30th birthday present, dumped in Silver Jubilee Park, Coseley.

The 51-year-old, who works at the Black Country Living Museum in Dudley, said: "The Facebook page was absolutely wonderful. It was not the outcome we wanted but at least we have got a bit of closure."

"People often criticise these social networking sites but Facebook accomplished something for us in a few hours that would have taken days or weeks the old fashioned way. It also restored my faith in human nature."

The motorbike was taken from outside Mrs Woodward's home in Dalwood Close, Bilston on September 25 in the early morning. It was a Kawasaki ER6n 650, worth £4,500. It was discovered less than a mile away.



The burned-out wreckage of the motorbike

Gallery plan campaigners set date for consultation

CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans to move Kidderminster Library's gallery and piano will hold their own public consultation.

They want to persuade Worcestershire County Council to rethink its decision to turn the second-floor gallery into offices for 130 workers.

When the move was first announced four months ago, arts and music groups in the town protested, prompting the council to put the plans on hold.

A public consultation was then held by the authority.

Smaller

The council's preferred option for the site is to convert the existing gallery into offices and create a smaller one with meeting rooms on the first floor.

A Steinway grand piano would be moved to the Corn Exchange next to the town hall, but the Friends of Kidderminster Library Gallery want their own consultation and will collect comments from people in the town on October 25.

They have already collected a 600-name petition

by Heather Large

in support of keeping the second-floor gallery. Campaign secretary Stephen Brown said members were still hopeful they could stop the plans from going ahead.

"The Friends do not accept the council's decision, this fight is far from over, and we intend to carry on and escalate our campaign," he said.

The council has said that 65 per cent of people backed the plans during the consultation.

But campaigners said only 83 people took part.

The council will now apply for planning permission for the work, which it claims will save £205,000 a year.

Libraries chief Councillor John Campion has previously said: "The reality is these savings need to be made and are not going away - and so we have no choice but to look at ways of reducing costs."

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MEMORY LANE



Children were often in the chain shop because women had little alternative for youngsters not in school



Women chainmakers working at the Harry Stevens chainmaking shop in Oak Street, Old Hill around 1910

How Mary's wage fight set off chain of events

THE Black Country Museum is due to hold an event on Saturday (20) to commemorate the actions of Cradley Heath's women chainmakers.

The 1910 Cradley Heath women chainmakers' 'lock-out' strike was a significant step in the development of a universal minimum wage.

It began in 1903 when Mary Reid Macarthur was appointed women's trade union leader and member of the federation of women workers. During a visit to Empire Theatre in Cradley Heath she saw dreadful poverty and was shocked by the infant mortality rate.

At the time the average woman chain worker was receiving about four to five shillings a week, around one third of a union-affiliated worker's wage and barely enough to provide shelter and cheap coal for their family.

In 1906 Charles Dilke pro-

posed the establishment of a trade board that would look into fixing the minimum wage of those women in the 'sweated trade'.

After years of hard work a government bill was introduced that saw the creation of a wage board headed by a youthful Winston Churchill and made up of a barrister, six chainmasters and six people to represent the workers.

Loophole

Talks got underway and a minimum wage was agreed of two and a half pence per hour for those that worked in the factory and three and a half from those that worked from home.

However employers found a loophole that meant that the wage increase could be held back by nine months, long enough to stockpile chain and then lay off workers, with Mary Macarthur taking the blame. Enraged Mary

organised strikes at chainmakers, the first being in Graingers lane.

She managed to get wealthy benefactors to donate money to continue to pay the women. Among those that donated was George Cadbury, a well-known social reformer. He pledged £10 a week to help the action.

The strike began on August 21 and lasted 10 weeks when employers finally agreed to pay the agreements made on the trade board on time.

The chainmakers saw an increase of up to 150 per cent in the amount that they earned. This event was one of the first assurances of a minimum wage for women workers in British history.

The family day at Dudley's Black Country Museum will feature a recreation of the women chainmakers' 10-week strike with a procession of period flags and banners as well as street entertainment.



Mary Macarthur acknowledges the ovation of the women



A close up of some of the women at Harry's shop in Old Hill



The national Reynolds Newspaper joined in the lock-out rumour with this cartoon featuring former slave Booker Washington, who rose to fame as an author and was visiting at the time of the strike

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NEWS

Fears of road chaos as next works phase starts

Flashdance sparks off



Amy Williams, Lara Mitchell, Anna Forster and Anna Hough

HIT eighties film *Flashdance* will be brought to life on stage in the next production by Stourbridge Operatic Society.

The hit film which tells the story of a female steelworker's dreams of becoming a dancer will be staged at The Town Hall Theatre in Stourbridge from Monday to October 20.

The show will feature hits such as *Maniac* and *What A Feeling* from the film.

David Shaw, production secretary at the company, said, the company is all Stourbridge born and bred and

with a few exceptions from Wolverhampton.

This will be the West Midlands premiere of *Flashdance* as it has just come off its professional release.

"The main thing people will enjoy is the music and the dancing."

"The film was such a cult classic back in the 80s and in our show there is something for everyone."

For tickets, people can call the secretary on 07504 301767 or visit www.stourbridge-operatic.co.uk for more details about the production.

LONG-term roadworks in Dudley will enter their latest phase this month – but residents fear it will bring further traffic chaos.

Dudley Council said utility works in Wolverhampton Street were progressing and the next part of the scheme would begin on October 19. National Grid Gas and South Staffordshire Water are ahead of schedule on the second phase of the project presently running from the junction with Stafford Street to Grange Road. Drivers can expect more changes.

Council officials admitted the works had caused traffic disruption along surrounding roads.

Residents said St James's Road, Priory Road, The Inghedge and Stafford Street were heavily congested during rush hour. They fear the problem will continue when the next phase of the project gets under way from Grange Road to The Parade later this month.

The works have also proved controversial with traders. The northbound section of Grange Road, between Parkway Road and Wolverhampton Street, will be closed for the work.

It is expected to take four weeks and Parkway Road, which is presently one-way from Himley Road to Grange Road, will operate in the reverse direction.

Council bosses said the change would allow northbound traffic on Grange Road to access Eve Hill island and Wolverhampton Street. Temporary traffic lights will also be installed at the junction of Himley Road and Parkway Road.

Lawson to light things up

BOYBAND Lawson will switch on the Christmas Lights at Dudley's Merry Hill centre.

The four-piece British band, which were in the top five singles charts recently with *When She Was Mine* and *"Taking Over Me"*, will turn on the lights on November 9. The band made the announcement on YouTube.

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NEWS

Only 9pc of 3,000 pleas on school places succeed

MORE than 3,000 parents in the Black Country and Staffordshire lodged appeals with councils after their children failed to get into their first choice schools, official figures show.

But just nine per cent of the 3,236 appeals lodged with local authorities by parents - or 295 - were successful.

According to the figures released by the Department for Education (DfE) which relate to infant, primary and secondary schools, Dudley parents submitted 505 appeals.

Councillor Sue Ridney a governor at Christ Church CE Primary School, Coseley, said: "We had 17 appeals at Christ Church and only one was successful so there were 16 sets of very disappointed parents."

"The appeal process is entirely independent and parents have the opportunity to put forward the case for why their child should get a place."

"Unfortunately when schools are popular they do get a lot of applications and there are only so many pupils they can admit to maintain safety and a high quality of learning."

Figures show Sandwell parents submitted 1,259 appeals. There were 574 in Staffordshire, 468 in Wolverhampton and 430 in Walsall. Figures relating to the 2010/11 academic year were just released by the DfE.

Total appeals made in the region were down from 3,419 the previous year. Nationally 46,905 appeals were lodged.

Children's time at library

ACTIVITIES for children are being staged at Stourport Library.

There will be a Peter Rabbit coloured competition from October 22 until November 5. Youngsters can collect a colouring page of Peter Rabbit from the library.

There will also be a Bounce and Rhyme activity taking place on October 29 from 10:30am to 11am.

Arson fears over trees



John Homer, 70, with the damaged tree in the front garden of his property

ARSONISTS have set fire to dozens of trees in four attacks on one housing estate in Halesowen - sparking concerns from residents living nearby.

Mother-of-two Katie White, aged 38, of Uffmoor Estate, says she is worried by the pattern of fires, which have all happened within the past six weeks.

The latest attack happened early on October 9 outside her father, 70-year-old John Homer's house two

doors down from where she lives.

Mrs White, a self-employed ground maintenance worker, believes the fires are started by using flammable liquid.

She said: "Someone or people are targeting trees along our road at different times over the past few weeks - and I've heard its happening elsewhere too."

"They need to be caught soon before something seriously does happen."

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NEWS



The entrance to Bean cars office in Dudley in the 1920s



A Bean 12 car and, from the left, Jim Thomas, Janet Garland, Eric Blewitt, Ann Shelley, Audrey Langford and Barrie Shelley



Joyce Taylor from Wall Heath pointing to her father in a picture of Lockerby and Wilkinson staff



The famous Bean's Foundry at Tipton as the building looked after the Second World War

Manufacturers' ex-staff reminisce at big reunion

HUNDREDS of ex-employees from once famous industries came together for a special reunion in the town.

The workers from Tipton reminisced, shared photographs and met familiar faces.

Opening the event at Tipton library was 86-year-old Beatrice Evans, who was Revo company beauty queen from 1943.

Among those who attended were ex-employees of vehicle manufacturer Bean Cars, pump makers Lee Howl, cooker firm Revo and pram company

Tansad, Eric Blewitt, aged 70, met Janet Garland, 66, for the first time since they worked at Bean, Hurst Lane, during the 1960s.

Mr Blewitt, of High Street, Pensnett, was an engineer who worked at the firm from 1957 until he was made redundant in 1982.

Mrs Garland, of Meadow Drive, in Sedgley, worked as a typist in the company's production department from 1962 to 1966.

Mr Blewitt said: "When I saw Janet I recognised her, and we stood and shared memories together of our time at the firm. It's amazing how when you

put two heads together you can remember so much." Library manager Robert Hazell organised the event, which, as well as photographs, featured memorabilia, including a 1925-built Bean 12 car.

Bean Cars, in Dudley and Tipton, produced cars, lorry engines and vehicle parts from 1919 to 1995.

Its Coseley factory was responsible for making Captain George Eyston's world-land-speed-record car Thunderbolt, which took the record in 1937.

Revo was based in Sedgley Road East and made cookers, and Lee Howl, was based in Robert Road.

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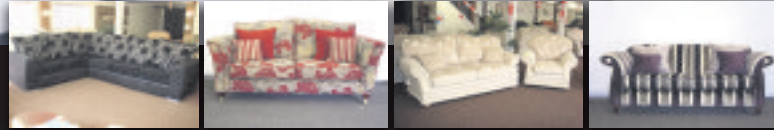
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NEWS

More medics recruited to cope with the winter

AMBULANCE bosses will recruit 20 extra graduate paramedics in the Midlands in preparation for the busy winter period which traditionally sparks a surge in 999 calls.

A dozen ambulance technicians are also being trained to boost the number of crews available to attend emergencies across the region. West Midlands Ambulance Service is investing £500,000 in its recruitment plans to help ease pressure on crews during the winter months.

The service's trust board has agreed to recruit the additional paramedics who will start work in November.

Additional overtime shifts will also be made available to maintain high staffing levels in the areas of most need, bosses said.

A team of GPs in Worcestershire is also being set up to provide treatment as an alternative to taking patients to hospital.

The doctors will be available so ambulance staff can either refer patients to, or take them to, the GPs instead of taking them to accident and emergency.

Director of service delivery, Barry Thurston, said: "With demand already extremely high, finding new ways of working can only benefit staff and patients alike." The service is also looking at ways to help patients who have suffered a fall but may not need to go to hospital.

Ambulance service spokesman Murray MacGregor said around 20 per cent of calls made to the service during winter was about elderly people who had fallen in the home.

He added: "We don't want them to have to go through the stress of going to hospital."

£300 raised for cancer

VOLUNTEERS have raised more than £300 for a cancer charity with coffee mornings and raffles at three Worcestershire hospitals.

The events were part of Macmillan's national week of awareness raising – and the world's biggest coffee morning.

Vicar takes last service



Rev Ron Curtis is retiring from St Thomas's Church after eight years

A VICAR has bid a fond farewell to the community he has served for nearly eight years after deciding to retire.

Reverend Ron Curtis has led his final services as priest-in-charge at St Thomas's Church, Market Street, Stourbridge.

Rev Curtis celebrated his 65th birthday recently and felt the "time was right" to stand down from the position he has held since January

2005. He and his wife Claire will move to Oxfordshire to be closer to their family. They have twin sons Iain and Stuart, 33, and three grandchildren Oliver, three, Alexander, aged nine months, and five-week-old Daisy.

Mr Curtis said he would remember his time in Stourbridge fondly. He trained to become a full-time priest at 57, after spending 32 years working for customs and excise.

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What the relatives say



www.poplars-nursinghome.co.uk

Our caring counts

'WE would like to thank all the staff for making mum's birthday a happy one. It was her first birthday away from home ...

'She enjoyed her day and it has helped us to see that she has settled in so well.'

'YOU are exceptional because you embrace the whole family. You gave me the strength to get through a very difficult time. You gave mum love and care when she needed it most.'

'WORDS cannot express how grateful we are that you took great care of our nan for the last three years of her life. We will be eternally grateful.'

University links

THE Poplars Nursing Home maintains strong links with Birmingham City University. Students regularly take placements at the home. After a six-week placement, one student wrote: "I have learned so much from everyone and the residents have been amazing. You do a spectacular job."

WHEN Eric was discharged from hospital into a nursing home the prospects were bleak.

The 71-year-old former steelworker was in constant agony after a skin graft to help heal an ulcerated leg began to break down.

And the situation was compounded by problems on the skin harvest site and gangrene in both his feet. "I was a mess. There was not a day I did not cry. I was in pain, even though I was on high doses of morphine," he says.

Today, after 18 months of diligent care by the staff at Poplars Nursing Home in Smethwick, Eric is starting to make plans to return to live with his wife Linda in their Harborne home. He is living proof of the consummate nursing skill which is delivered daily at the home in South Road.

"I had circulation problems, a bad ulcer and I ended up in the City Hospital. I was never without pain, but now I have no pain at all really. Occasionally I still get pain but I only have to take paracetamol, he adds. Eric is quick to show how he can now manage his own physiotherapy regime, sitting on the bed and pulling his feet towards his waist.

"You see this (he reaches for his leg). I couldn't do this before and all I want now is to get back home. I need some adaptations, but I can manage my wheelchair and transfer into bed on my own. The council says I'm entitled to a grant to get the work done and I'm waiting hear where we are on that."

Poplars manager Gill Williams says his clinical success story is because of the home's excellent multi-disciplinary approach and its close working relationship with doctors, physiotherapists and nutritionist. "Eric is remarkable. He was very, very poorly



Manager Gill Williams



One of the Poplars' bedrooms, with profiling bed and the dining area



Nursing Eric – and the power of care

when he first came to us but with care diligence, nursing skill and first-class support from the home's doctor, he is now planning to go home.

Inspections

"This is an unusual, but very happy outcome for our home. In ten years I have known only two people return to the community. It's nothing short of joyous.

"He has shown real courage and determination and worked with us to achieve these goals. What's more, he still has legs and feet," adds Gill.

Poplars has performed excellently during Care Quality Commission inspections and under the old auditing system consistently achieved the top three-

star ratings. The 35-bed home prides itself on its family-centric ethos and encourages relatives to be involved in the care planning and evaluation of their loved-ones. It vigorously embraces a dietary well-being programme, caters for all nutritional needs and continues to enjoy a top kitchen work practices rating by Environmental Health inspectors.

"For many people, this is their last home so it needs to be special. Our aims are simple: To make residents' time with us comfortable and happy, to enhance their life quality, to promote independence, to maintain privacy and dignity and along the way share a generous amount of laughter and love," adds Gill.

Are you looking for excellence in residential nursing care for a loved one? Call Poplars on 0121 558 0962

NEWS

Last phase of defence for floods set to start

THE final stage of a £1million flood defence scheme on one of Dudley's busiest roads will start this month.

Work to lay new sewer pipes in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford began in July. An underground flood storage tank is being put in Broadmeadow.

The final stage of work is due to start on October 20 and a section of Stallings Lane between Hinsford Close and the entrance to Francis Catering will be shut from that date.

It is expected to reopen by the end of the month and the whole scheme completed by mid-November.

It aims to prevent serious flooding in Stallings Lane and Hinsford Close where there were problems in 2002, 2005, 2007 and 2009.

Adam Walker, programme engineer at Severn Trent Water, said: "Some of our sewer pipes have been

by Heather Large

serving the community for many years now and need replacing. In addition, changes in weather patterns mean our older network of pipes are not large enough to cope with the overwhelming amount of rainfall we now experience, which, at times, causes sewer flooding.

"The work on Stallings Lane is part of a major upgrade to the sewerage system within the Kingswinford area, near Dudley."

"We've worked closely with Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, the emergency services and bus companies so they're aware of the plans."

TV and trailer are stolen

A FLAT screen TV and a motorbike trailer, bike parts and tools, were stolen from a house in Kidderminster.

Thieves broke into the home in St Johns Avenue, Blakebrook, between 10am and noon on October 1. A Ford Transit-style van was seen outside the property around the time of the burglary.

Meeting in the pink



Rose Forrest, consultant breast surgeon Mr Vijay Ganesh and organiser Marion Griffiths with group members

PINK was the colour of the day for dozens of people raising awareness of breast cancer in Dudley.

Patients and carers at Whitehouse Cancer Support in the town wore pink clothes for the event.

As well as a meeting of the members at the group's base in Ednam Road, Russells Hall Hospital consultant Vijay Ganesh delivered a talk.

The group, which is one of nine cancer bodies at the support organisation, receives around 600 new patients each year.

Trustee and cancer survivor Marion Griffiths, aged 65, said the event was part of the national Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

She said: "We need to get more people aware of the cancer and how to spot any early signs - days like this are key to making people think."

"I've managed to survive it with the help of others, but now I want to help people who were just like me 20 years ago."

"We offer guidance and therapies to help people who have been diagnosed." For more information on the group, visit www.support4cancer.org.uk

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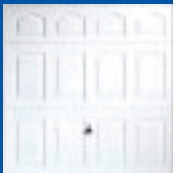
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NEWS

Praise over support as festival marks 25 years

ORGANISERS have praised the community for getting behind the annual Bewdley Festival which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

Bewdley Festival attracts big names from the world of television, music and the arts into the town and began on Friday.

Organisers said the first weekend of the festival, had been "very special". The festival joined forces with the town's Harvest Fair, to stage activities around the town.

Members of the Wytchwood Morris Dancers entertained crowds in Load Street and visitors were also able to browse around a craft market set up along Severnside South.

A parade of Suffolk Punch horses was also held in Load Street and visitors enjoyed the soup trail. They were able to try eight seasonal soups at different venues and asked to vote for their favourite.

Musical performances by 60s band The Zombies, featuring original members Colin Blunstone and Rod Argent, were held on the opening night of the festival.

Singer Barbara Dickson was also in the town for a concert.

Other big names included Alastair McGowan, and Michael Portillo, there was also music the Medieval Babes.

The festival was due to close with the premiere of the Big Brass New Orleans Mass which has been specially written for the festival by musician Andy Williamson.

The music will be provided by the Brass Volcanoes, featuring Andy Williamson, and the Wolverhampton Chamber Choir.



Wytchwood Morris Dancers performing at the Bewdley Festival



Some of the food stalls along the river during the festival in Bewdley

Students support charity

STUDENTS at a Stourbridge sixth form college supported the national Jeans for Genes day. The Student Union at King Edward VI College chose a cowboy theme for the fundraiser and hoped to raise more than £250.

Jeans for Genes is a charity raising funds for children born with genetic disorders.

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REVIEWS

Slick and sassy sisters can act

Sister Act, Birmingham Hippodrome
THIS quick, slick and never-miss-a-trick production based on a Hollywood smash hit movie is populated by a wealth of talent – most notably the powerful voice and sassy nature of Cynthia Erivo as main character Delores, a role made famous by Whoopi Goldberg.

Alongside her was soap favourite Denise Black as the Mother Superior who, although not a natural singer, held her own.

Set in 1970s America, Delores is forced to hide from her dubious friends after witnessing a mob execution.

The unfortunately named cop,

Sweaty Eddie, finds the perfect hiding place for the brash Delores when she decides to turn state witness... a convent. Throwing Delores into the sisters' sanctuary has the same effect as hurling a firework into a gunpowder store, just wait for the bang and watch sparks fly.

Thanks to a sterling cast there is never a dull moment as the new sister brings her own particular style of Catholicism to her eager sisters, ably abetted by Michael Starke as Monsignor O'Hara and belligerent brides of Christ Sisters Mary Robert (played by Julie Atherton), Mary Lazarus (Jacqueline Clarke) and Mary Patrick

(Laurie Scarth). The set pieces are executed with precision, with all the cast having strong and clear voices but worthy of note were Edward Baruwa's solo and quick change routine as Sweaty and baddie Gavin Cornwall's henchmen as Supremes-style backing singers.

The impressive sets, the furious dancing and the harmonised voices all led to a finale which was spectacular and as glitzy as anything on Strictly Come Dancing.

Sister Act continues at the Hippodrome to Saturday, October 20.

Danny Farragher

Haunting drama lacking in chills

Haunting Julia, Wolverhampton Grand

ALAN Ayckbourn is probably the UK's most popular and prolific living playwright. He is a master of witty dialogue and an expert on the mores and morals of the married middle classes.

Haunting Julia, which he wrote 18 years ago, is his only play in which he attempts to scare an audience. It's a ghost story but it is also about guilt, the perils of being gifted and contains eloquent exposition on the supernatural.

It is set in a flat that has been turned into a museum dedicated to its former occupier Julia, a musical genius who died in her bedroom from an accidental (or suicidal) overdose of sleeping pills at the age of 19. Twelve years after her death her still grieving father, her former boyfriend and a psychic apparently conjure her spirit by obsessing over the reasons for her untimely demise.

The play is superbly acted by the three players. Duncan Preston is the bluff York-

shire father who cannot accept that his talented daughter may have killed herself, or that he could never really appreciate her talent.

Joe McFadden hides a secret as the now married ex-boyfriend who is sceptical about the supernatural.

Richard O'Callaghan is the lisping psychic who may be unleashing dangerous forces beyond his control.

The dialogue is good and interesting ideas are touched on. Is the father's grief preventing Julia moving on? Is an all-consuming talent a curse? But Ayckbourn doesn't explore the ideas fully and too often lightens the mood with humour, which punctures any growing air of menace.

The shocks are provided by loud noises and a big finale that involves some neat special effects. But Haunting Julia has one major flaw for those anticipating a spine-tinting ghost story... it's not scary.

It continues at the Grand to Saturday.

Leon Burakowski

Katie lacked wow factor

Katie Melua, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

IT'S remarkable that at 28, Katie Melua has slightly more than a 10 year musical career already under her belt.

The Georgian-born singer, even when firing on only three cylinders, still has more talent and skill than many big names.

While her performance was solid, it was also somehow basic, clinical and lacking any real spark or wow factor.

Katie is certainly being experimental with her latest album Secret Symphony.

She came on stage dressed in black and red looking like a cross between a goth and a gypsy opening with a track from the album Gold In Them Hills.

Katie mixed it up with some of her, now classic hits, such as Closest Thing To Crazy, and songs from her new album, such as the title track which has a theatrical feel. She also brought in rock, blues and jazz anthems. Clear and powerful as her voice is, she was occasionally drowned out by her musicians

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NEWS

NEWS

in brief

Porsche stolen in burglary is found

A CONVERTIBLE Porsche – one of three vehicles stolen in two burglaries at homes in Kidderminster during one night – has been recovered.

The blue Porsche 911 Carrera, worth £20,000, was spotted by a resident near his home in Nutbush Drive, Northfield, Birmingham and it still had the keys inside.

Officers are examining the car before returning it to its owner, who lives in Sutton Park Rise, Kidderminster.

The Porsche was taken after burglars stole the keys from the house.

Anyone with information can call 101, quoting incident 32-N-111012, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Pupils hand over food for Harvest

PUPILS in Kidderminster donated goods to Age Concern during their annual Harvest Festival.

The youngsters at Holy Trinity International School donated a range of foods.

Head Pamela Leek-Wright said: "The school has been supporting Age Concern for many years."

Taxi rules altered

Taxi drivers in Dudley will be able to renew their private hire or Hackney carriage licences up to 14 working days after they have expired under new plans.

They are currently only given five days, but this will now be extended.

MP accuses Tories of fiddle on boundary change plans

AN MP has criticised controversial proposals that would see his parliamentary constituency carved up by redrawing the political map of the West Midlands. Under the plans Ian Austin's Dudley North constituency would be split up to merge with towns in Sandwell.

He has branded the government proposals as being a "fiddle" to win votes. The Boundary Commission for England has announced proposals to change parliamentary constituencies to cut the number of MPs by 50 to 600.

Plumber stole £4,000 of lead

A PLUMBER stole £4,000 lead flashing from the roof of a Dudley church and was about to drive off with the haul before being stopped by police.

Paul Welch and an unidentified man took the metal from the lower roof of All Saints' Church, Vicar Street, Sedgley, where refurbishment had been done just days before.

Dudley Magistrates Court heard police had been called to the church at around 4.45am on September 6 after being alerted by CCTV operators.

Officers arrived just as the van, owned and driven by Welch, was about to pull away and turned on their blue lights.

Hearing

The court was told the other man fled and was able to evade officers. Welch, aged 33, of Corve View, Dudley, pleaded guilty to a charge of theft at an earlier hearing.

He was sentenced to 20 weeks in jail suspended for 12 months and ordered to pay the church compensation of £1,500.

Mr Jason Corden-Bowen, prosecuting, said the CCTV operators had seen a man loading the metal into the van. He said it will cost the church an estimated £4,000 in repairs and to put the leading back. Welch, who was not represented, told the court he had not climbed up on the roof to remove the metal and had not loaded it into the van. He was also placed on supervision for a year.

However, the future of the proposals look uncertain as the Liberal Democrats, led by Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, are refusing to support the Conservatives in getting the changes through the House of Commons.

Labour's Mr Austin will face losing most of his Dudley North seat if the merger with part of West Bromwich West is approved.

It could mean Mr Austin going up against his counterpart Adrian Bailey to win the Labour nomination for a new Dudley East and Oldbury constituency.

Mr Austin said: "I hope this proposal does not get through because I think the whole project is an attempt to fiddle the boundaries to make it easier for the Tories to win."

Breakfast

"I think that the whole plan is a dog's breakfast with parliamentary constituencies going across local council areas."

Under other plans one of Wolverhampton's three MPs would go, along with one of Sandwell's four MPs.

But Bilston will no longer be carved up between the MPs following a campaign and will become part of a constituency called Wolverhampton East if the plans are adopted by Parliament.

Proposals for a merger between the Halesowen and Rowley Regis constituency with the Stourbridge seat have also been scrapped.

Instead Stourbridge will take in Wordsley and Brierley Hill wards from Tory MP Chris Kelly's Dudley South constituency.

However the newly named Stourbridge and Dudley seat would lose Quarry Bank and Dudley Wood wards.

Dukes' Daisy hoggs limelight



The Dukes of Hazzard actress Catherine Bach opening the Motorhome and Caravan Show at the NEC, Birmingham

THE good ol' boys were nowhere to be seen, but Dukes of Hazzard star Catherine Bach was still turning heads when she appeared in the West Midlands.

Bach, who played Daisy Duke in the hit 1980s show, was famous for her denim cut-off hot pants in the series.

But for her visit she was dressed rather more conservatively as she opened the Motorhome & Caravan Show at Birmingham's NEC.

The 58-year-old said: "Motorhomes have always been my second home as during work they are the place where you spend most of the time, especially when you are travelling to different locations."

"After I had children I bought a huge motorhome where you could walk upstairs to the bedrooms."

"I wanted this so I could take my children with me wherever I worked."

"What's so special about motorhomes is the camaraderie between owners."

The show is the biggest of its kind in the UK and runs until Sunday.

Fight for sporting courts is at an end

NEW tennis courts have been opened at a Dudley park after a £22,000 grant was secured.

The facilities are now ready to use at Buffery Park. The Friends of Buffery Park had campaigned for years to transform a disused basketball court into two courts.

The plans became a reality when a bid for a £22,000 grant from BIFFA was successful.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, officially cut the ribbon to the tennis courts.

The courts now sit alongside football pitches, bowling greens and a multi-use games area.

It is hoped the courts will encourage more youngsters to take up the sport, inspired by the success of Andy Murray who recently won the US Open and Olympic gold.

Councillor Mottram said: "After the amazing success of our tennis stars at the Olympics, it's great to see a local facility available."

Help wanted

THE hunt is on for someone to arrange flowers for Hagley's St John's Church.

Margaret Bruton, who is sacristan for the church, says she would like to hand over the task to someone new.

Anyone who can help should contact her by calling on 01562 666115.

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Commerce group gets £125,000 to boost trade

A BODY formed to create jobs and champion business in the Black Country has been awarded £125,000 by the Government – with even more cash likely in the next two years.

The Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) gets the £125,000 in this financial year.

All 39 LEPs in the country will receive the funding, which will be followed by £250,000 in each of the next two financial years as long as the group can match the funding locally.

The government's decision comes after an all-party parliamentary group report recommended LEPs needed annual funding to support their work.

Ninder Johal, of the Black Country LEPs said: "We welcome this news which will mean core funding is available to help us drive forward our plans for growth in the Black Country."

A-maize-ing summer



Luke Sadler invites visitors to Kinver's Maize Maze

A TOURIST attraction is celebrating a successful year after receiving around 2,000 visitors over the summer months – despite the bad weather.

The Maize Maze at Kinver Edge Farm, Sandy Lane, was given a London theme this year to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Ian Sadler, who runs the Maze and farm shop, said the attraction had enjoyed a large number of visitors.

People have until the end of the month to visit the 10-acre maze site before it closes for this year.

Admission is £5 for adults and £4 for concessions.

Cautious welcome to hospital being saved

SUPPORTERS of Kidderminster Hospital – once at risk of closure due to reshaping of health services – have given a cautious welcome to news that it looks certain to stay open. Kidderminster Hospital Alliance has pledged to monitor the situation.

The organisation said it would keep up the pressure to make sure it gets the best level of services for the district. The alliance recently handed over a 13,000-name petition against the loss of any services from the hospital. NHS Worcestershire chiefs have now outlined aspects of their review.

They say it will focus upon continuing to deliver services from all three of the county's acute hospitals – Kidderminster, the Alexandra at Redditch, and Worcestershire Royal.

But campaigners are anxious to hear what changes might be made to services at each hospital, although NHS Worcestershire says the Alexandra Hospital is the one most likely to be affected.

Stephen Brown, secretary of Kidderminster Hospital Alliance, said: "It's good news in one way because we were concerned the

review would have a really big impact on Kidderminster and could mean closure.

"But it doesn't tell us anything about the detail of what services will be provided at Kidderminster."

"And we are keen to keep what we've got." The alliance will meet to consider its next move following the latest announcement.

Seat

Dr Richard Taylor, the former Wyre Forest MP who won his seat after the last campaign to save Kidderminster Hospital in 2001, said: "There's no way they can take away anything else from Kidderminster without harming services in the whole county."

Eamon Kelly, chief executive of NHS Worcestershire, said: "The Alexandra Hospital is the site most likely to be affected."

New owners in gym rescue bid

NEW owners have jumped in to buy a closure-threatened gym, saving 13 jobs.

Fitness First in Kidderminster had told its eight full-time staff, cleaner and six part-time instructors in the summer that it would close in January.

But now 24/7 Fitness has come to the rescue, investing around £250,000 to keep the club open.

All eight full-time jobs have been saved, but there is no longer work for two of the instructors. The new owners will be extending the club's opening hours – to round-the-clock.

The gym, which currently has 2,300 members, has lowered prices and will offer a wide range of classes for £17.95 a month, or £19.95 for anyone on a "no contract" membership. Gary Lockwood, managing director of 24/7 Fitness, said: "We are looking to increase membership to 3,000 by this time next year and, if that happens, I expect that we would need to take on two more staff."

Advertisement

Home improvement scheme to help older homeowners

An innovative, council home improvement scheme to help older homeowners is offering a greater range of services to people struggling to improve or maintain their properties.

Dudley Council's home improvement service offers help to homeowners aged 55 and over to finance and organise their home improvements, renovations or adaptations.

The service has been developed specifically to help older people who own their homes but who may be struggling to improve or maintain them as a result of a low income or simply because it presents too much of a challenge to them.

It offers practical advice and guidance, as well as support with organising suitable finance through independent financial advice. A range of loans specially developed for older people are available, including some with no monthly repayments.

During a free home visit, the work that is needed is discussed with an experienced council officer. A home visit from an independent financial advisor is also offered if required. Here advice is available on the best financial product to suit the individual's own circumstances.

A complete project management service is also available – to all customers, whether finance is being arranged or not. Here staff will organise and manage all of the building or improvement works on the customer's behalf to make the experience as stress free as possible.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for housing, libraries and adult learning comments:

"I would encourage homeowners across Dudley borough, who are over 55 and are thinking about home improvements, adaptations or modernisation to contact the Dudley home improvement service for advice and support."

"This free service aims to help older people continue living independently in warm, safe, secure and well maintained homes."

"Impartial, professional advice and support will ensure that the best choice is made – both in terms of the home improvement itself and in terms of paying for the work."

Homeowners interested in the service can find out more by calling 01384 815117.



Make the most of your home with no hassle, no worry home improvements

If you are a homeowner aged 55 plus and are struggling to improve or repair your home, our new home improvement service could be the answer.

We offer a free support package - all work and arrangements managed by the council, for you

We also offer independent financial advice and can help with arranging funding for your home improvements. Our service makes it simple to unlock the value tied up in your property and update it using one of our specialist loans tailored to meet the needs of older people.

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COMPETITION

Gift of a show for festive shopping

THE Festive Gift Fair, the biggest and best Christmas shopping fair in the Midlands, will be returning to the NEC from November 22-25, just in time to buy all of your gifts before the big day.

The Chronicle series has teamed up with the organisers to give 20 readers the chance to win a pair of tickets.

As fun as it is to receive presents, half the fun of Christmas is finding the perfect presents to give your loved ones. If you like a lot of choice and particularly like to find something a little different, then this is for you.

The Festive Gift Fair ensures there are brilliant show offers, fabulous ideas and affordable presents for everyone. This takes all of the hard work out of present buying, bringing together a great mix of 325 stalls, brimming over with thousands of clever gifts for all ages and tastes. You'll see all your favourites as well as more than 100 new companies at this year's show.

Bands

The phrase 'shop til you drop' doesn't need to apply as there is a Present Crèche where you are able to leave any purchases to collect when you want to leave, so that you can either continue shopping or stop for a bite to eat. There will even be some great Christmas musical entertainment - from live bands, choirs and brass bands.

Come and sample seasonal favourites from tangy pickles and fine English cheeses to tasty chutneys, oils, curry sauces, delicious fudges and handmade chocolates, nuts, cakes, beers and country liqueurs.

If you like a lot of choice then this is for you. There will be a huge variety of fabulous ideas and inexpensive presents for everyone, as well as treats for yourself.

And there is the chance to win a huge Christmas stocking full of presents. Don't forget to enter the prize draw at the Fair entrance. Each day there are three stockings full of goodies to be given away. Winners will be announced at the Fair.

Advance adult tickets are priced at £8.50 and are available now through The Ticket Factory on 0844 581 0808/0809 or online at www.theticketfactory.com



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To be in with a chance of winning, simply answer this question:

Where can you leave your purchases to collect when you are ready to leave?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address and contact number to Festive Gift Fair Competition, Chronicle series (editorial), 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: Thursday, October 25, 2012. No cash alternative. Usual rules apply. Editor's decision is final.



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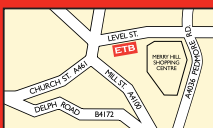
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HOMES

How being DIY-shy can hit your pocket

DIY-shy Brits are throwing away up to £4,000 every year!

If the thought of fixing a wobbly patio or levelling an uneven floor leaves you in a cold sweat then you're not alone.

Millions of Brits are throwing away thousands of pounds every year by paying external workmen to do jobs they could easily tackle themselves.

A poll by Tarmac revealed Brits could save themselves up to £4,000 a year by learning a few simple home maintenance techniques.

Patience

The survey found that 32 per cent of people in the Midlands say they avoid DIY because they're worried about making mistakes and 23 per cent say they find it too complicated.

The research looked into the reluctance to carry out maintenance, repairs and renovation around the home and whether, with a bit of patience, willing and knowledge we could actually save ourselves substantial amounts of money.

Julia Kendell, celebrity DIY expert and star of BBC One's DIY SOS says: "If we took the time to actually learn a few basics and had a bit of patience instead of giving up at the first hurdle or not even starting in the first place, we could actually



You have the tools and with a bit of knowledge and patience you may find it is not too complicated and you could save yourself a lot of money

surprise ourselves with our skill and save money at the same time."

To help DIY shy Brits Tarmac launched a range of DIY repair products called U-CAN available in B&Q stores nationwide.

The innovative U-CAN mix in the bag products include mortar and concrete which even the most novice home improver will be able to use.



Don't drain families of precious resource

WHETHER or not we are in a drought people need to make sure they are keeping an eye on their water consumption.

Water shortage affects millions of homeowners, not to mention having a potentially adverse effect on the UK's wildlife.

Cutting down water usage not only makes good environmental sense, it can save on household bills too which is why Megafo, the water experts, have put together some practical tips to help homeowners save water.

Savings on tap

There's no need to keep the tap running while brushing your teeth or shaving as you can waste up to nine litres a minute by just letting the water pour down the sink.

Glass a day helps keep ban away

Why not just use one glass for your drinking water each day or refill a water bottle as this will cut down on the number of glasses to wash.

Make sure wash is a full one

When using your dishwasher or washing machine make sure the load is full as this can save gallons of water.

A shower of savings

Spend less time in the shower and even turn off the tap in-between rinses while washing your hair. If you aim to spend no more than two minutes in the shower it will go a long way to helping cut down on your water usage.

Rationalise tea-making

Fill the kettle with only as much water as you need as this will save both water and energy. Using a cup to measure out the amount of water you put into your kettle will help reduce the strain on your bank account as well as on the UK's water resources!

Fix your leaks

Those leaky taps can waste gallons of water. It is estimated that just one drop a second from a dripping tap wastes nearly 5,000 litres of water a year. So get the plumber in and get it fixed. Having a new washer fitted will be a lot cheaper than the cost of the water a leak can waste.

If you can, use it twice

Never let water down the drain if you can use it again. You can re-use your washing-up water to water your plants



Leaving the tap running can waste up to nine litres of water a minute

and garden. Washing up liquid is harmless to our growing friends so recycle the used dish water. You can even water plants with your used vegetable cooking water.

Keep it cool

Keeping a bottle of water in the fridge avoids you having to run the tap for a while and waste water while you wait for it to run cold. You can then refill the water bottle as you need it and even use the water left over in your kettle to be super-efficient.

Wash your dishes

When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run while rinsing. Try filling one sink with wash water and the other with rinse water and wash up everything in one go.

Keep your greens green

However, you can wash your fruits and vegetables in a single bowl of water instead of running water from the tap through a colander.

Forget hose, use a bucket

Using a sponge and a bucket of water to clean your car, instead of a hose, is the smart way to keep our prized four-wheeled friends shining, without breaking the water bank.

Stop your flushing

Did you know that each time we flush the toilet it uses the same amount of water which a person in the third world used all day for washing, cleaning, cooking and drinking? Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily; put your tissues and other waste in the bin rather than the toilet.

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CLUB NEWS

National Service is talk topic

PENN TOWNSWOMEN

CHAIRMAN Ursula McInnes welcomed everyone back after the summer break. After the Guild Business, she introduced Sue Clegg, a retired police officer specialising in fingerprints.

It takes five years training and every print is unique. She helped to identify the victims of the tsunami and because other countries keep records of their population's fingerprints, many more of their victims were able to be identified as opposed to British victims.

It was also intriguing how some crimes are solved by the tiniest bit of evidence.

The social evening was a Beetle Drive, always good fun. For the social studies Ed Shore gave an amusing and anecdotal talk asking whether National Service should be brought back.

After the Second World War, most young men reaching 18 years of age were called up for National Service. Some got deferred to 21 because they were serving an apprenticeship or were at university. He told how young innocent lads, most of whom had never been away from home, were sent to square-bashing camps for the first six weeks.

They were then sent on training for an occupation usually totally opposite to what they were doing before being called up.

October 24 is an Autumn Supper for members only. Meetings are held at Penn United Community Hall, Penn Road at 7.30pm.

Rain fails to dampen Botanical Gardens trip



The Loudon Terrace at Birmingham Botanical Gardens which was visited by the club

MEMBERS of MyTime Over Fifties had a busy September with a Sunday lunch, visits to Broughton Castle near Banbury, Bristol and the Botanical gardens in Birmingham. This visit was very successful, a gentle walk round, beautiful planting to admire, lunch in the excellent café and the usual rain – but only at the end of the visit.

Ms Valerie Williams was September's speaker. Valerie is a reflexologist and her passion for this shone throughout her excellent talk. Many of the members and visitors had heard of reflexology but were not fully

MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

aware of its uses as a complementary therapy in the fight for good health and fitness.

Valerie trained at Halesowen College and is also qualified in Indian head massage. The audience was very interested in her talk and thanks were gratefully given.

Meetings are on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the Amblecote room at Stourbridge Town Hall. On October 24 Sheena Williams asks "When Should You Start Considering Care?"

Bear facts about arctophile

IT was a busy summer with an outing to the Black Country Museum in July, a walk followed by fish and chip supper in August and a visit to Stokesay Court and Ludlow in September.

Following the business the September meeting was entitled "Come for a Hug".

Gaynor Woodward is an arctophile, ie a collector of bears. She brought with her

CODSALL WOOD WI

a selection of bears which she had made, and everyone was invited to hug a bear.

Gaynor makes bears from different fabrics, mohair being the most expensive at £140 a metre. She is now using manmade fabrics because of the cost. The

bears come in all colours. Glass pellets are used to give smaller bears a bit of weight.

Gaynor can make any size of bear and makes bears to order. Many of hers were dressed. In her own words 'you are never too old to love a bear'.

The next meeting on October 25 at St Peter's Hall will feature an evening with Elizabeth Arden.

When Red Card Roy made the beautiful game ugly

IN the 1970s English football produced someone better than George Best.

Roy McDonough was not a better player but, when it came to women and drinking, he was in a different league.

Now, in *Red Card Roy* (Vision Sports Publishing, £12.99), he is telling the story of his life in football. This is not about the beautiful game but the brutal, ugly underside of it.

McDonough was one of six children brought up in Olton, near the Land Rover plant at Solihull. He ominously got sent off when he was playing in the Birmingham Schools' Cup Final. He lost it and throttled the referee. A six-month suspension followed.

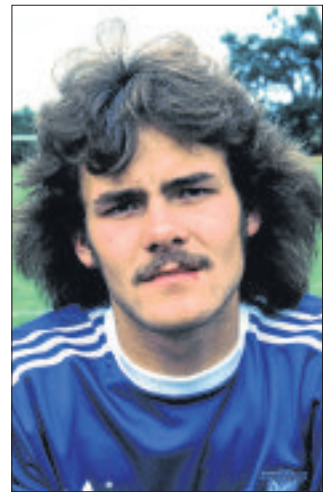
This was a taste of things to come as hard man McDonough went on to set an English record for being sent off 22 times during a 20-year career spanning seven league clubs, 650 games, 150 goals, 400 women and thousands of pints.

He received his first setback when Aston Villa decided he was not good enough. His dad, Jim, got him in at Birmingham City.

In 1977 aged 18, he scored in his second game for the Blues. He looked forward to scoring many more at the top level but it would prove to be his only one. Roy never got another chance in the first team, which he felt he deserved. He started to lose his discipline on and off the



Roy McDonough's autobiography



McDonough when at Birmingham City

pitch. Then he was sold to Third Division Walsall for £15,000. In his arrogance, Roy thought he could be out drinking 10 pints a night and still be a star but Walsall were relegated.

Saddlers

The book tells of McDonough's run-ins with manager Alan Buckley and the fans. The falling out with the Saddlers came when Buckley tried to cut his wages. Surprisingly, Chelsea moved in and signed him for

£30,000 but he never played a first team game.

He wandered between lower league clubs, achieving cult status at Colchester and Southend. He was a man who drank up to 30 pints a night and his favourite trick was hanging upside down and sinking a pint in seven seconds.

Red Card Roy is a riotous read filled with the kind of trivia fans love. He tells who was the hardest defender he ever faced, who was the toughest man he played

alongside and also fires a volley at ex-Wolves boss Mick McCarthy. But for all his tabloid-type escapades, McDonough's book is ultimately a story of love and redemption. There are five main characters: McDonough, football, alcohol, his dad and wife Liz. McDonough is now 53 and happily settled in Spain. His legendary drinking is over but he will still have a bottle of wine with a meal. Cheers, Roy.

Tony Attwater

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ATTRACTIVE 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic



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Are this weeks featured web ads



YOUNG male 39, likes rock and roll, seeks female, 33 - 45 for friendship, maybe more.

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(T&C's below)

GRACE Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

PETITE 50yr old likes reading, gardening, outdoors, walking, cycling, seeks companion, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393160

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTm someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396327

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals/in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, with tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTm a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397535

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919

42YR old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358399

JESSIE single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382087

SUE 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

VICKY honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

SLIM professional, attractive, amiable lady, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH, who enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386615

JAN lonely divorced female with older children looking for male for mature/adult companionship without ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394663

SARAH nice looking blue eyed slim brunette, WLTm similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394575

39YR old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887

CLARE good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209

SAMANTHA pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a really lust for life, seeks big hearted stocky male/dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395035

YVONNE lonely 32yr old single mum of one, slim, brown hair, WLTm discreet male for mutual attention without complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395027

STACEY young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382091

JANE 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, music, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386591

CURVY red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383225

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565

PAULINE divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394463

SLIM male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591

ANNA 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking older, well built male to look after, 40-69yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375139

GENUINE female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

SLIM attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351813

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397

FRIENDLY black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349865

HELEN 34yr old single mum slim intelligent, seeks nice male for adult companionship with good potential for a great relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394121

PATRICIA 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

ATTRACTIVE slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349651

OUTGOING sociable young female, 33, average looks, likes pubs, clubs, bowling, cinema, seeks gent, 33-45. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362769

FEMALE likes meals out, cinema, nights in, seeks male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361871

72YR old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and N/S. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349265

ATTRACTIVE tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349211

MICHELLE black British, 30, curvy, slim, size 12, 5ft 5ins, sociable, friendly, understanding, loving, seeks male, 30-36 to enjoy romantic nights. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 317945

LADY 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTm gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 340021

ATTRACTIVE glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339799

SARAH 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTm kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378483

LYNN 37 single mum, petite slim and very pretty, seeking caring funny guy to be with and become my Mr Wonderful. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386633

MORAG 21yr old attractive dark haired student nurse, new to area and very lonely seeks mature male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391087

BLONDE tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

33YR old black haired, medium built, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

MARIA 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

SINGLE MEN

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(T&C's below)

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397679

ROY 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637

INDIAN male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509

JAMES 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no lies, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463

59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874

WEST Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTm affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted evening. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396765

JOE 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671

SINGLE dad, 39, on a budget, seeking an outgoing, fun female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393012

42YR old single dad, nice looking, genuine, honest, seeking special female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396611

HEREFORD male, 46, looking for single lady, slim, attractive, adventurous for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396705

32YR old slim, dark haired male, adventurous, creative, likes music, walks, cycling, photography, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392753

39YR old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks single, slim lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396061

CLIVE 46, seeking hot chick for plenty of action. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392772

JOSEPH 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103

TIGER Woods lookalike, seeks big beautiful woman for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393737

MALE 70's widow, kind, honest, caring, likes socialising, holidays, nights in/out, seeks loving female for respectful, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393559

MALE 50, medium build, likes socialising, nights out, clubs, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397355

JOHN 44, seeks black/Asian female, 25-65 for daytime/evening meets, looks/size unimportant. Can travel only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397339

ATTRACTIVE male, 55, seeks older female, 50-70 for close, adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397189

STRICTLY come dancing. Male 52, trendy, honest, caring, down to earth, fun loving, seeks petite lady, 45-54. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397163

JIMMY 53 good looking, fit, genuine, honest, very loving and looking for the same in a woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397157

GENUINE male, 43, brown eyes, 5ft 10ins, outgoing, adventurous, seeks slim-average build female, 30-40. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396289

GOOD looking 48yr old male, GSOH, honest, caring, loyal, hurt in past, looking for loving female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394159

PROFESSIONAL male, 42, hurt in past, seeks female, 32-40. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392769

NAUGHTY 40 something, tall, smart, GSOH, seeks lady for rainy days and Sundays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392665

TOM 62, fit, likes tennis, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392659

MALE 38, seeks female, any age for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392645

GOOD looking 39yr old male, likes pubs, music, walks, swimming, seeks nice female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392943

51YR old male, 6ft, dark hair, single parent, likes most things, sports, seeks slim, honest, caring female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392933

A really nice divorced gent, late 40's, 6ft 1ins, fair hair, kind, caring, romantic, GSOH, seeks lady for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392474

STEVE 39, 5ft 9ins, medium build, likes walks, seeks female, slim-medium build, single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396709

MATURE gent, honest, sincere WLTm mature lady, 70-80 for long term friendship, honesty more important than looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392551

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 20.10.12

CHOICE



Casualty

BBC1, 9.10pm
It's a disastrous day for Zoe. One minute she is doing her shopping, the next she's struggling to deal with a suspected E-coli outbreak when shop-worker Simon collapses. To make matters worse, she's nearly run down by an elderly driver seeking help for his sick wife, and Ms Hanna's TV interview regarding the outbreak is taken out of context, creating bad blood for the staff. Meanwhile, a young lad merrily playing in a bottling factory has a narrow escape when he gets his hand caught in a conveyor belt. Sunetra Sarker heads the cast.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigellissima. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.30** Racing from Ascot. **4.30** Final Score. **5.20** BBC News: Regional News: Weather. **5.40** Pointless Celebrities.
6.30 **Strictly Come Dancing.** The pro-celebrity couples take their inspiration from the silver screen in this movie-themed show, with the judges deciding who is a blockbuster and who is a box-office flop. The results are tomorrow at 7.20pm.
8.25 **Merlin.** A stranger gives Arthur the power to summon the dead, so he seizes the chance to speak to the person he misses most – his father, Uther Pendragon.
9.10 **Casualty.** Zoe struggles to deal with the fallout of a suspected E-coli outbreak and Dylan is touched by an elderly patient who has lost his beloved wife.
10.00 **The National Lottery Saturday Night Draws.** Mylene Klass presents live from National Lottery HQ as the all-important winning numbers are revealed. Includes the results of the Lotto and Thunderball draws.
10.10 **BBC News: Weather.**
10.30 **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, which included Tottenham Hotspur v Chelsea at White Hart Lane and Manchester United v Stoke City at Old Trafford; National Lottery Update.
12.00 The Football League Show. **1.20** Weatherview. **1.25** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **12.05** **Film: Apache Territory.** (1958) **1.15** **Film: The Deadly Companions.** (1951) **2.45** Live International Rugby League. **5.00** Wartime Farm.
6.00 **Escape to the Country.** Presenter Jules Hudson helps a newly married couple find their dream home in the Shropshire countryside on a budget of £400,000. (R)
6.30 **Flog It!** Paul Martin visits Weymouth, Dorset, to meet people eager to sell their antiques at auction. He also discovers various uses for the Isle of Portland's famous stone. (R)
7.30 **Maid in Britain.** Exploring the portrayals of domestic servants on TV, asking why butlers, cooks and nannies are still found in programmes after the decline of their roles in real life. (R)
8.30 **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring lets Frazer take charge of the platoon, gambling that a taste of authority will give him a more responsible attitude. (R)
9.00 **QI XL.** Stephen Fry hosts an extended version of the quiz, with Jack Whitehall, Jimmy Carr, Cal Wilson and Alan Davies answering fiendish questions about joints.
9.45 **The Thick of It.** Hour-long episode of the political comedy. Politicians from both sides of the House are under pressure as they appear before an inquiry into the suicide of the key-worker.
10.45 **Film: Kill Bill: Vol 1.** (2003) Martial arts thriller, starring Uma Thurman.
12.30 How the Brits Rocked America: Go West. **1.30** **Film: Darkness.** (2002) **3.05** Close.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** Dinner Date: Australia. **12.15** ITV News: Weather. **12.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **1.25** **Film: Stop! Or My Mom Will Shoot.** (1992) **3.00** **Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith.** (2005) **5.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.50** ITV News: Weather.
6.05 **New You've Been Framed!** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a fresh selection of comical clips filmed by viewers on their camcorders, mobile phones and webcams.
6.35 **Fool Britannia.** Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly. Last in the series.
7.05 **Take Me Out.** A plasterer from Sheffield, an Essex student, a van driver from Birmingham and a London furniture designer try to impress 30 single women and win a date. Paddy McGuinness presents.
8.20 **The X Factor.** The third live studio round, with the four judges and voting public alike eager to experience more barnstorming vocal performances by the contestants. Dermot O'Leary hosts. The results are tomorrow at 8pm.
10.20 **The Jonathan Ross Show.** With David Mitchell, Bradley Cooper, Steven Tyler, Joe Perry and Emmet Starr. Last in the series.
11.20 **ITV News: Weather.**
11.35 **Film: Jarhead.** (2005) Gulf War drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal.
1.45 The Store. **ITV News: Headlines.** **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.50** Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** British Formula Ford. **7.25** Freesports on 4. (R) **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Ellie Goulding: iTunes Festival 2012 Special. (R) **9.25** T4: Made in Chelsea. **10.30** T4: Revenge. **11.25** T4: Suburgatory. **11.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **3.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **4.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.25** Come Dine with Me: Ireland.
6.25 **Channel 4 News.**
7.00 **Comedy World Cup.** David Tennant hosts the second semi-final, which sees Jason Manford, Paul Chowdhry and Nicholas Parsons facing off against Omid Djalili, Daniel Sloss and Joe Pasquale.
8.00 **The Million Pound Drop Live.** Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1million, but lose money for giving incorrect answers. Last in the series.
9.15 **Film: The Taking of Pelham 123.** (2009) Premiere. Criminals hijack a New York subway train and threaten to kill the passengers unless they are paid \$10million. Thriller remake, with Denzel Washington.
11.20 **Film: High Crimes.** (2002) A leading attorney fights to prove her husband's innocence after the military accuse him of killing villagers in El Salvador. Thriller, starring Ashley Judd.
1.30 Hollyoaks. **3.40** Emily's Song. (R) **3.55** Deal or No Deal. (R) **4.50** Countdown. (R) **5.35** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.30** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Dallas. (R) **11.55** CSI: NY. (R) **12.50** CSI: NY. (R) **1.45** **Film: Murder Among Friends.** (2001) Detective thriller, starring Greg Evigan. **3.30** **Film: Deadly Honey.** (2010) Mystery, starring Zoe Lellan. **5.10** 5 News Weekend. **5.15** **Film: El Dorado.** (1986) An ageing knight and a drunken town sheriff are drawn into the conflict between a land-grabbing cattle baron and a ranching family. Western, with John Wayne and Robert Mitchum.
7.50 **Film: The Devil's Brigade.** (1968) Elite Canadian troops are forced to work with American convicts on a mission in the Norwegian mountains. Adventure, starring William Holden and Cliff Robertson.
10.20 **CSI: Miami.** Horatio and the team investigate the murders of two former members of a sorority and suspect a third woman, who was humiliated years earlier by the victims. Guest starring Bo Derek.
11.15 **CSI: Crime Scene Investigation.** Three teenagers are murdered while putting up posters to promote hip-hop star Dollar, raising fears that competition between rival rappers has taken on a deadly dimension. (R)
12.10 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **4.00** House Doctor. Home improvements. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. British religious art. (R) **4.50** Rough Guide to Islands. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. Mr Carburettor wants to be more modern. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 World's Craziest Fools **7.30** Match of the Day Live: Women's International Football. France v England (Kick-off 7.50pm). **10.00** Live at the Apollo **10.30** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.15** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Human Planet **8.00** Horizon: Global Weirding **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** The Final Frontier? A Horizon Guide to the Universe **11.45** Order and Disorder with Jim Al-Khalili
ITV2
3.10 The Hit Factory: The Stock Aitken & Waterman Story **4.10** The X Factor USA **6.10** **Film: Mr Bean's Holiday** (2007) **8.00** **Film: Back to the Future Part III** (1990) **10.20** The Xtra Factor **11.20** Take Me Out – The Gossip
ITV3
3.30 Agatha Christie's Poirot **6.00** Murder. She Wrote **7.00** Foyle's War **9.00** Endeavour **11.05** **Film: Arthur 2: On the Rocks** (1988)
ITV4
2.30 **Film: Support Your Local Sheriff** (1969) **4.25** British Superbike Championship Highlights **6.00** Superbikes – When Britain Ruled the World **7.00** The Sweeney **8.00** Minder **9.00** **Film: Highlander** (1986) **11.20** **Film: Midnight Run** (1988)
E4
4.20 Rules of Engagement **5.20** Baggage **6.25** The Big Bang Theory **7.50** Suburgatory **8.20** **Film: Jumper** (2008) **10.00** **Film: 28 Weeks Later** (2007)
Film4
3.15 James and the Giant Peach (1996) **4.50** The Nutty Professor (1963) **7.00** Drilbit Taylor (2008) **9.00** In Her Shoes (2005) **11.35** Final Destination 3 (2006)

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 21.10.12

CHOICE



Holly Willoughby

Surprise Surprise
ITV1, 7pm

Holly Willoughby will be giving members of the public the biggest surprise of their lives as Cilla Black's classic show returns, minus the flame-haired diva herself. We have been promised a number of tear-jerking surprises and dramatic family reunions as Holly and guests help make some dreams of a lifetime come true. In the opener, a soldier faces his biggest fear, and a friend gives his best mate the gift of life. The Saturdays surprise a devoted fan and a couple are reunited with something very special after more than four decades.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** Exiled: The Ugandan Asian Story. **12.45** Country Tracks. (R) **1.40** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.40** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.25** Nature's Miracle Babies. (R) **4.25** Lifestyle. **4.35** Points of View. **4.50** Songs of Praise. **5.30** Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. (R)

6.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

6.20 Countryfile. The campaign to save Beachy Head lighthouse's red and white stripes.

7.20 Strictly Come Dancing: The Results. Two more couples perform the dance-off, and Dionne Warwick sings.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. The experts return to Port Sunlight on the Wirral, where objects include a stash of advertising signs found on a tip, a religious painting and part of an Apollo spacesuit. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

9.00 Andrew Marr's History of the World. The growth in trade and the spread of capitalism.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including highlights of Sunderland v Newcastle United.

11.25 The Graham Norton Show. (R)

12.10 Film: Drop Dead Gorgeous. (1999) **1.40** Weatherview. **1.45** Sign Zone: The Choir. Sing While You Work. (R) **2.45** Holly City. (R) **3.45** The Paradise. (R) **4.45** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **8.30** Live MotoGP. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** MotoGP. (R) **2.05** Triathlon. **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Indian Ocean with Simon Reeve. (R)

6.30 Fawcett Towers. Basil goes behind Sybil's back to save money on structural alterations to the hotel – but ends up paying dearly for his underhand tactics. John Cleese stars. (R)

7.00 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May try to go motor racing for less than it costs to play golf. With rock star Slash and F1 driver Kimi Raikkonen. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 Secret Universe: The Hidden Life of the Cell. Documentary showing what happens to a single human cell as it comes under attack from a virus, demonstrating how it defends itself from the hostile organism. David Tennant narrates.

9.00 Dragons' Den. Ideas and products being pitched to the panel include an online store for second-hand goods, a horror-themed paintball experience and a darts invention.

10.00 You've Been Trumped. Documentary about homeowners taking on American billionaire Donald Trump's plans to build a huge golf resort on an environmentally sensitive site in Aberdeenshire.

11.30 Hebburn. (R) **12.00** Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) **12.30** Film: Scenes of a Sexual Nature. (2006) **2.00** BBC News.

ITV1

6.00 CITV: CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **12.25** ITV News: Weather. **12.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.30** The FA Cup Draw. **2.00** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** The Home of Fabulous Cakes. **5.00** Downton Abbey. (R)

6.00 Cornwall with Caroline Quentin. The owners of a beach cafe prepare a seafood paella. (R)

6.30 Regional Programme: Weather.

6.45 ITV News: Weather.

7.00 Surprise Surprise. New series. Holly Willoughby takes over hosting duties from Cilla Black in the return of the show that makes dreams come true. Featuring the Saturdays and Jensen Button.

8.00 The X Factor Results. Dermot O'Leary announces the outcome of the viewers' phone-in and the two least popular acts have to sing for survival.

9.00 Downton Abbey. Tempers fray as a kind gesture by Isobel backfires. Mary fights Branson's corner when his decisions are put under scrutiny and Robert and Cora's relationship suffers.

10.05 ITV News: Weather.

10.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Felicity Kendal. The actress talks about her eventful personal life. (R)

11.20 Strictly Kosher. Conclusion. Bernette Clarke talks about the Jewish mourning period.

12.15 The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.15** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.30** Motorsport UK. **4.20** Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Film: Star Trek: Enterprise. (R) **7.05** Terrex Adventure Race. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Film: Star Trek: Insurrection. (1998) **3.50** Deal or No Deal. **4.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.55** Channel 4 News.

6.00 Film: Inheritance. (2008) Premiere. A man able to bring books to life accidentally lets a fictional villain into the real world.

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8.00 How Britain Worked. New series. Engineering enthusiast Guy Martin celebrates the workers of the Industrial Revolution by re-creating some of the 19th century's most impressive technical achievements.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie prepares for what she hopes is a triumphant return to the CIA, while Brody learns the Gettysburg bomb-maker is on a terrorist watch list.

10.00 Friday Night Dinner. Mum and Dad are not on speaking terms after an argument.

10.30 Film: Ghost. (1990) A murdered executive's spirit enlists the help of a fake psychic to help his girlfriend bring his killer to justice.

12.55 American Football Live. **4.45** Brief Encounters of the Sporting Mind. (R) **4.50** Grudge Match. (R) **5.00** Countdown. (R) **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Friends. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Castle Farm. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jam. (R) **10.00** Great British Bake Off. **8.45** Take Me Out. **5.55** Take Me Out. **8.45** The Gossip. **6.45** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Girlfr!3nds **11.50** The Vampire Diaries **ITV3**

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Friends. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Castle Farm. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.45** City of Friends. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.30** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.45** Jelly Jam. (R) **10.00** Great British Bake Off. **8.45** Take Me Out. **5.55** Take Me Out. **8.45** The Gossip. **6.45** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Girlfr!3nds **11.50** The Vampire Diaries **ITV3**

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DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Be Your Own Boss **8.00** Gavin and Stacey **9.00** Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents **10.00** American Dad! **10.45** Family Guy **11.25** Cuckoo **11.55** Russell Howard's Good News

BBC Four
7.00 The Grammar School: A Secret History **8.00** Michael Wood: The Story of India **9.00** Film: The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife (1991) **10.10** World War Two: 1942 and Hitler's Scott Underbelly **11.40** Michael Wood: The Story of India

BBC Five
3.10 Film: Garfield (2004) **4.45** Take Me Out **5.55** Take Me Out - The Gossip **6.45** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (2005) **9.00** The Xtra Factor Results **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Girlfr!3nds **11.50** The Vampire Diaries

BBC Six
4.55 Film: Carry On Cruising (1962) **6.45** Agatha Christie's Poirot **9.00** Forensic Casebook with Matthew Kelly **10.00** Film: Interview with the Vampire (1994)

BBC Seven
10.30 Live British Touring Car Championship. **6.30** UEFA Champions League Greatest Matches **6.45** Film: The Last Sunset (1961) **9.00** Film: Blues Brothers 2000 (1998) **11.30** Film: Lethal Weapon 2 (1989)

BBC Eight
3.15 Made in Chelsea **4.15** New Girl **4.45** Suburgatory **5.10** Revenge **6.05** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: Stardust (2007) **10.30** Darren Brown: Evening of Wonders

BBC Nine
3.10 The War of the Worlds (1953) **4.55** Baby's Day Out (1994) **6.50** Entrapment (1999) **9.00** Terminator Salvation (2009) **11.10** Choke (2008)

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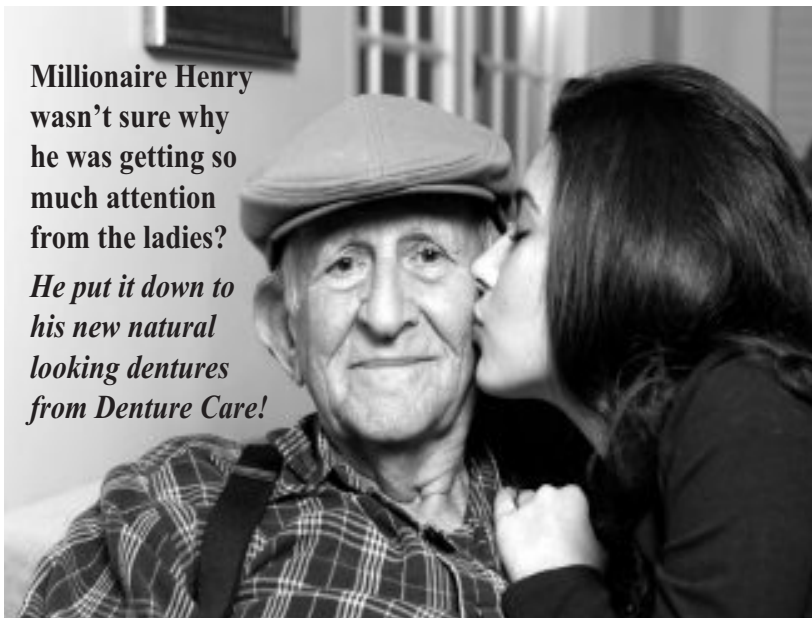
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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines, Channel 5, 9pm
John Connor finds his destiny to lead the human race in a future war is catching up with him when an advanced new Terminator in female form is sent back in time to eliminate him. However, a reprogrammed cyborg has also been dispatched to act as his protector. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Nick Stahl, Claire Danes and Kristanna Loken. (2003)

TUESDAY

At First Sight, BBC1, 11.35pm

An architect embarks on a whirlwind romance with a blind masseur, and persuades him to undergo an operation to regain his sight. However, her kind intentions backfire as the pressures of coping with his new world threaten to tear apart their fledgling relationship. Romantic drama, starring Val Kilmer, Mira Sorvino, Kelly McGillis and Nathan Lane. (1999)

WEDNESDAY

Revolutionary Road, BBC2, 11.20pm

Married couple Frank and April Wheeler live a picture-perfect life on the surface, but in truth are growing frustrated with their lot and feel stifled by their situation. When April suggests the family moves to France to start a new life, Frank is persuaded it is a good idea, though when he is offered a stable job with a lucrative pay packet he changes his mind, leaving April a desperate figure longing for an escape. Sam Mendes' 1950s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet, Leonardo DiCaprio, Michael J Shannon and Kathy Bates. (2008)



Revolutionary Road, Wednesday, BBC2, 11.20pm

THURSDAY

Wishing Well, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A shallow journalist is sent to write an article about a supposedly magical wishing well in a far-off town. However, she finds her life transformed when she returns home to find no one from her past remembers her. Fantasy drama, starring Jordan Ladd, Ernest Borgnine, Tempest Bledsoe, Sally Kellerman, Jadin Gould, Kyle T. Heffner, and Kevin Kirkpatrick. (2009)

FRIDAY

Death Race, Channel 5, 9pm

Jensen Ames is framed for the murder of his wife and sent to Terminal Island Prison, a facility that broadcasts the highly profitable Death Race, a high-octane event where convicts battle to the death in customised cars. When a popular driver dies, crooked prison warden Hennessey persuades Ames to take his place, claiming he will be released if he is victorious. Sci-fi thriller, starring Jason Statham, Joan Allen, Ian McShane, Tyrese Gibson, Natalie Martinez, Max Ryan, Jacob Vargas and Jason Clarke. (2008)

Pick of the Week

Michael goes nuts in Brazilian adventure

If you do a search on the Internet for 'Brazil with Michael Palin', chances are the results will feature a 1985 film directed by his old Monty Python mate Terry Gilliam.

In it, Palin subverts his nice-guy image by playing Jack Lint, a hard-working but unscrupulous torturer who is loyal only to the regime that employs him.

We can assure viewers that Palin won't be appearing as that character in this new, four-part series. Instead, he's back to his affable best and back on the road.

After spending the past 25 years travelling the world for our entertainment, you would think that Palin had been everywhere, wouldn't you?

It's true that the comedian-turned-actor-turned-globetrotter has more stamps in his passport than most people, but there's one place he's never been to, and it happens to be the fifth-biggest country on the planet – Brazil.

"I spent one night there in 1996, on the way from South Africa to Chile to fly to the South Pole, and had seen

nothing except the salesmen on Copacabana Beach," he says.

Brazil is a nation that, over the next four years, will increasingly be in the spotlight because not only will it host football's World Cup in 2014, it's also the next host country of the Olympic Games in 2016.

Palin begins his tour in the north east, which was once an area populated by European settlers who grew wealthy by exploiting slave labour; now it has a vibrant mix of cultures.

In São Luis, he learns about a 200-year-old ceremony performed on its backstreets, goes dancing, and samples life with the local area's old-style cowboys.

Then it's on to Salvador, where Palin learns about the religion of Candomblé and tries African drumming before rounding off the first leg of his tour by taking a trip on a traditional saveiro boat.

"It was a thrilling journey, full of great sensations, and provided I can stay on my feet, I think this Brazil series has the potential to be very special."

But even if it isn't, you get the impression that Palin will shrug it off, and continue to smile. "My general feeling is that I'm extraordinarily fortunate to be alive and try and look at each day as an enormous opportunity."

Another reason for Palin's stability is his happy home life. He's been married to childhood sweetheart Helen since 1966, and they have three adult children – Tom, Will and Rachel. However, none of them accompany him on his travels. "It's difficult enough to make these journeys with a crew of seven," he explains. "There's no time for family life really, it's a sort of commando raid – a little group of people who all have something to do – and you wouldn't take your granny on a commando raid."

"Also, my wife is quite happy to let me get on with doing this. She's got used to it over the years. Even before I was doing travel shows I'd be filming away for six weeks at a time. Now the children are grown up it's much easier."

He may only just have returned, but we're already looking forward to his next trip.



Brazil with Michael Palin, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

Jamie's 15 Minute Meals
Channel 4, 5pm

Throughout this – fast-paced – new series (of which he's written a book in the same vein), Jamie has improved on his 30-minute-meals series a couple of years back, appealing to all the microwave-loving haphazard cooks and mums-on-the-go in demonstrating that in the time it takes to heat up a ready-meal, with a bit of organisation, a delicious feast can be cooked from scratch. Each half-hour episode will feature two super-fast nutritious family meals, beginning with chilli con carne meatballs, plus sticky kickin' chicken.

Monroe

ITV1, 9pm

It looks like there's romance in the air for Monroe (James Nesbitt) and Lizzie (Tracy-Ann Oberman). Of course, nothing goes to plan in Gabriel's world, so there's little surprise when their date doesn't quite go as expected. The medics have plenty on their plate when Sally Indale (Jennifer Hennessey) is admitted. She has a history of fitting and aggressive episodes, so when she has an MRI scan, the surgeons are amazed to find an aneurysm 'the size of the Isle of Wight' deep in her temporal lobe. If Sally agrees to a frightening operation – hypothermic circulatory arrest – Monroe believes he can restore her old personality.

TUESDAY

Rolf's Animal Clinic
Channel 5, 8pm

For 10 years, Rolf Harris was the host of much-

loved BBC series Animal Hospital. Now he's back with this similarly themed new series. Rolf's Animal Clinic sets up shop at the University of Liverpool's Leahurst campus, which is home to one of the UK's top veterinary colleges. It also operates three specialist hospitals treating cats and dogs, horses and farm animals, and two teams of mobile vets. The first patient is Millie, a family's pet horse who is brought in with a life-threatening case of colic and needs emergency surgery. There's also a chance to meet two very exotic alpacas, a pet pig with an unsightly lump and a bulldog who's been put on a diet. It must be just like old times for Rolf!

WEDNESDAY

Grand Designs
Channel 4, 9pm

If you want to live in one of west London's most exclusive areas, sometimes you have to be a little creative with space management, as Audrey and Jeff know only too well. They plan to transform a listed Edwardian artist's studio – along with 5,000 sq ft of derelict basement – into a bespoke subterranean home. The des res will feature a supersize kitchen, mezzanine sitting room, four en-suite bedrooms, a gym, cinema, steam room and wine cellar. It's a tricky enough task with proper architect's drawings, but they have made a rod for their backs by opting to go ahead without. Audrey is project-managing, but it's not long before they have hit the first of many problems.

DCI Banks

ITV1, 9pm

DCI Banks and DI Morton investigate when a professional hit-man bursts in to the luxurious house of Keith Rothwell and shoots him at close range. What strikes Banks, though, are the strange reactions of the victim's family and it soon becomes evident that Rothwell has been living a secret double life. Seemingly, Banks finds himself involved in a fraud investigation that pits him against an old police rival. The case also brings about personal issues for the detectives, as Morton continues to struggle to fit into her new environment.

THURSDAY

The Town That Caught Tourette's
Channel 4, 9pm

Tourette syndrome isn't contagious, is it? Before watching this documentary, you would say a resounding 'no', but afterwards... Well, you'll need to make up your own mind. In October 2011, in Le Roy, a small town in New York, a handful of teenage girls from the same high school began displaying symptoms that looked like they had suddenly developed Tourette's – facial twitching, violent limb gestures and verbal outbursts. Here, those who

suffered – and in some cases, are still suffering – discuss the situation and what they feel caused their symptoms. They also reveal how they coped with what happened, in particular the media furor that began after some of the girls went on TV in the hope of raising awareness of their problem

FRIDAY

Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Burt Reynolds
ITV1, 9pm

He was once the biggest movie star in the world, a hirsute hunk whose million-dollar grin and trademark 'tache left women the world over weak at the knees. However, a series of bad decisions saw Burt Reynolds turning out a string of so-so films and TV shows in his later years. This week, Piers Morgan grills the star of films such as Smokey and the Bandit and The Cannonball Run. As ever, Morgan will be asking the questions some interviewers refuse to, but let's hope he's a little kinder on Reynolds than he was on his Cannonball Run co-star Roger Moore the other week.

Derren Brown: Apocalypse
Channel 4, 9pm

Derren Brown's latest mind-boggling feat sees him attempt to convince one person that the planet has been devastated by a catastrophic meteorite strike, that zombies have taken over the land and he is one of a handful of survivors. The survivor is someone who takes his life for granted, but he won't for much longer, as this meticulously crafted adventure threatens to give him just the wake-up call he needs. Chances are that Derren will have done it again – baffled all of us that is.

DCI Banks, Wednesday, ITV1, 9pm

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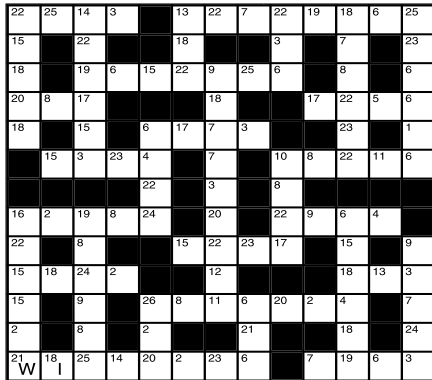
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.191

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
D	G	E	J	U	Y	W	R	P	O	T	H	N
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Q	L	K	Z	V	A	X	M	S	F	C	I	B

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

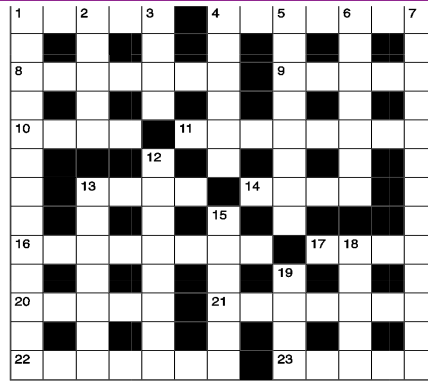
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. It just goes to show how time passes! (5)
4. Comes into line for clothes (7)
8. A case for travelling light (7)
9. A topping decoration (5)
10. Dog food? (4)
11. Feeling fed-up! (8)
13. Saucy vessel? (4)
14. Look equal (4)
16. Ugly in an awkward way (8)
17. The ship that ended the embargo (4)
20. A number holding no end of wood (5)
21. Made allowances? (7)
22. Part of the meal you leave, we hear (7)
23. One may slip and fall into it (5)

Down

1. Properly managed, as efficient orchestras are! (4-9)
2. Colour and leave the dance (5)
3. List familiar to the last worker (4)
4. No answer? (6)
5. Grows about ten different wines (8)
6. Unusual threats really surprise (7)
7. Fixed rule deciding priority in a queue? (8,5)
12. Opera featuring just one player? (8)
13. They should be allowed to be themselves, we're told (7)
15. Steps a brave man won't take (6)
18. A helicopter needs it, going up and down (5)
19. Title from Latin America (4)



Quick Clues:

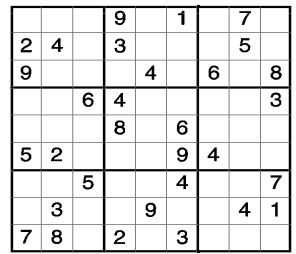
Across

1. Trap (5)
4. Lower (7)
8. Titular (7)
9. Subject (5)
10. Greek love-god (4)
11. To pain (8)
13. Cease (4)
14. Proceed (4)
16. Birth (8)
17. Got up (4)
20. Drone (5)
21. Assuage (7)
22. Theft (7)
23. Crush (5)

Down

1. Self-important (13)
2. Speed (5)
3. Suspend (4)
4. Flood (6)
5. Fatherly (8)
6. Utter (7)
7. Reticence (13)
12. Talk (8)
13. Colonist (7)
15. Tempestuous (6)
18. Corpulent (5)
19. Applaud (4)

Sudoku



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

9	1	7	5	3	4	6	2	8
6	2	7	4	8	3	5	1	9
2	8	3	9	1	7	4	6	5
4	5	9	2	6	8	1	7	3
7	6	1	3	5	4	9	2	8
1	7	6	8	4	9	6	3	2
8	9	2	1	3	6	7	5	4
3	4	6	5	7	2	8	9	1

LAST WEEK'S CIRCLEGRAM SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is A. Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, all Australian cities.

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 3 Lost heart; 8 Echo; 9 Sapphires; 10 Parson; 11 Asset; 14 Races; 15 Saps; 16 Aries; 18 Tier; 20 Clear; 21 Reams; 24 Martin; 25 Paper clip; 26 Scum; 27 Still wine. Down: 1 Temperate; 2 Character; 4 Oran; 5 Tapes; 6 Exiles; 7 Reed; 9 Sousa; 11 Amiss; 12 Take stock; 13 Astronomy; 17 Scrap; 19 Reveal; 22 Macaw; 23 Fast; 24 Mien. QUICK - Across: 3 Constable; 8 Oven; 9 Associate; 10 Profit; 11 Gleam; 14 Total; 15 Leer; 16 Exits; 18 None; 20 Tells; 21 Growl; 24 Single; 25 Constrain; 26 Once; 27 Imprudent. Down: 1 Competent; 2 Revolving; 4 Out; 5 Stool; 6 Animal; 7 Late; 9 Aisle; 11 Grill; 12 Negligent; 13 Prospered; 17 Stain; 19 Eraser; 22 World; 23 Form; 24 Sign.

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3 56 STRATTON STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON WY10 9AJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£37,000 - £42,000
4 60 STRATTON STREET, WOLVERHAMPTON WY10 9AJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£37,000 - £42,000
5 11 ADAMS CLOSE, SMETWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B66 1HD	Leasehold Vacant Residential	£42,000 - £46,000
6 4 WATTON STREET, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B70 7BP	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£45,000 - £55,000
7 110 HIGH STREET, AMBLECOTE, STOURBRIDGE, WEST MIDLANDS DY8 4HG	Freehold Residential Investment	£120,000 - £130,000
8 174 - 176 DELPH ROAD, BRIERLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 2ZZ	Freehold Land with Potential	£20,000 - £30,000
9 LAND ADJ TO 123 NORTHFIELD ROAD, NETHERTON, DUDLEY DY2 9ET	Freehold Building Land	£40,000 - £50,000
10 BLDG PLOT ADJ 4 HERONVILLE DRIVE, BLACK LAKE, WEST BROMWICH B70 0HS	Freehold Building Plot	£28,000 - £33,000
11 126 STRATFORD ROAD, SPARKHILL, BIRMINGHAM B11 1AJ	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£100,000 - £115,000
12 98 DINGLE STREET, OLDURBY, WEST MIDLANDS B69 2DY	Freehold Vacant Residential	£46,000 - £52,000
13 LAND 248 PORTWAY HILL, TYDALLE, OLDURBY (ADJ 869 1PQ)	Freehold Freehold Land	£2,000 - PLUS
14 SITE AT WINCHESTER GROVE, OFF WATFILL ROAD, HANDSWORTH, B'HAM B21 0OT	Freehold Development Land	£75,000 - £85,000
15 INSIGHT HOUSE (FORMERLY THE LAURELS), PEARSON STREET, BRIERLEY H DY5 3BL	Freehold Commercial Investment	£300,000 - £325,000
16 20 WORCESTER GREEN, WEST BROMWICH, WEST MIDLANDS B71 1JD	Freehold Residential Investment	£45,000 - £50,000
17 1 HADEN HILL, COMPTON, WOLVERHAMPTON WY3 9PT	Freehold Vacant Residential	£75,000 - £80,000
18 140 EYEHAM STREET, REDDITCH, WORCESTERSHIRE B97 4HP	Freehold Commercial Investment	£160,000 - £180,000
19 2 MARINER AVENUE, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM B16 9QG	Freehold Vacant Residential	£140,000 - £148,000
20 134 - 136 CAPE HILL, SMETWICK, WEST MIDLANDS B66 4PH	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£150,000 - PLUS
21 99 OLD FALLINGS LANE, WOLVERHAMPTON WY10 8BJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£42,000 - £48,000
22 OPEN YARD, EVELYN ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B11 3JJ	Freehold Commercial Investment	£45,000 - £55,000
23 130 - 140 WALSTEAD ROAD, WALSALL WS5 4Y	Freehold Vacant Commercial/Flats	£210,000 - £230,000
24 HADEN WORKS, HADEN STREET, BASALD HEATH, BIRMINGHAM B12 9BH	Leasehold Commercial Investment	£315,000 - £345,000
25 LAND 25/29 & 31/33 WASHWOOD HEATH ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B8 1RS	Freehold Land with Potential	£140,000 - £160,000
26 234 NINEVEY ROAD, HANDSWORTH, BIRMINGHAM B21 0TB	Freehold Vacant Residential	£65,000 - £70,000
27 115 SELSEY ROAD, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM B17 8JP	Freehold Vacant Residential	£88,000 - £92,000
28 109 YARNFIELD ROAD, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B11 3PJ	Freehold Vacant Residential	£70,000 - £75,000

56 Lots To Be Held At The Holte Suite, Aston Villa Football Club

29 2 STATION ROAD, ACOCKS GREEN, BIRMINGHAM, B27 6DN	Freehold Vacant Residential	£118,000 - £126,000
30 UNITS A, B & C SPARKHILL TRADING ESTATE, EVELYN ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B11 3JJ	Freehold Part Vacant Commercial	£170,000 - £190,000
31 AGRICULTURAL LAND OFF SQUARE LANE, CORLEY, COVENTRY CV7	Freehold Agricultural Land	£130,000 - £145,000
32 FORMER LITTLE CHEF / LAND AT MANOR WAY, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B62 8RU	Freehold Land	£95,000 - £105,000 + vat
33 122 WILLES ROAD, WINSON GREEN, BIRMINGHAM B18 4PX	Freehold Residential Investment	£60,000 - £65,000
34 10 WELLINGTON ROAD, DUDLEY, WEST MIDLANDS DY1 1RB	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£130,000 - £140,000
35 100 MANOR FARM ROAD, BIRMINGHAM B11 2HX	Freehold Vacant Commercial	£230,000 - £255,000
36 LAND REAR OF 1 RAGLAN STREET, BRIERLEY HILL, WEST MIDLANDS DY5 3YG	Freehold Building Plot	£18,000 - £24,000
37 FGR 13, 14, 15 & 16 BRYN MORGROU, PONTARDANE, WEST GLAMORGAN SA8 3BG	Freehold Ground Rents	£10,000 - £12,000
38 1 MEVILLE HALL, HOLLY ROAD, EDGBASTON, BIRMINGHAM B16 9RJ	Leasehold Vacant Residential	£105,000 - £115,000
39 77 LONG LANE, WALSALL WS6 6AT	Freehold Vacant Residential	£98,000 - £106,000
40 DALE HOUSE, BREXON ROAD, TWEVESBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE GL20 5BX	Freehold Part Vacant Commercial	£180,000 - £200,000
41 187 METCHELEY LANE, BIRMINGHAM B17 0NH	Freehold Vacant Residential	£129,000 - £139,000
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Situated in this popular residential area, is this first floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Access to Balcony from the Master Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Well Worth an Inspection.

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CRADLEY HEATH, MEADOW WALK

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NETHERTON, ROUND STREET

Situated on a very popular road, and a short walk from local shops and bus links, is this unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Cozy Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Low Maintenance Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking.

£450 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

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HALESOWEN, MANOR LANE

A furnished flat above shop, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Large Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Shower Room, Secure Parking.

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ROWLEY REGIS, WINCHESTER CLOSE

A very well presented, unfurnished first floor apartment, close to the M5 J2, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen, Lounge, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space and Parking Area for Visitors, Communal gardens.

£425 PCM



HALESOWEN, LINDEN AVENUE

A one bedroomed bungalow set in a popular location. Accommodation includes: fitted kitchen, lounge, double bedroom, shower room, gas central heating, double glazing, driveway to fore and rear garden with access from the rear.

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The top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Stourbridge and Kidderminster

Old Vicarage comes with a 3.5 acre plot



The imposing frontage of the Old Vicarage makes a lasting impression



Elegant interiors – throughout the house, rooms have a stylish flair to them

AN elegant Grade II Regency house, located in a conservation area village is on the market with Andrew Grant estate agent.

With around 3.5 acres of land including wildlife pools and paddock, the Old Vicarage in St. Leonards Square in Cleat dates from circa 1724.

A slender Doric influenced portico sits over a substantial timber and glazed door leading to the vestibule area featuring timber panelling to the lower walls.

The welcoming reception hall, with black and white tiled floor and a listed oval geometric staircase, acts as a hub for the ground floor rooms which feature many fine period details including deep set sash windows – most with shutters distinctive architraves, decorative plaster corbels, exquisite wide panelled doors and high ceilings.

A V-shaped deep set casement window is a particular feature of the dual aspect morning room along with its exposed timber floor and marble fireplace. The elegant dual aspect drawing and dining rooms, also with marble fireplaces, are of equal merit,

being ideal for entertaining with inter-connecting doors.

A useful garden room has access to the south westerly facing rear terrace via French doors whilst the kitchen, home to a magnificent bow window, features a comprehensive range of wall and floor cupboards incorporating a mixture of granite and wood work surfaces over an inset sink, built-in dishwasher and large range cooker.

Impressive

A sizable utility leads off, again with a good range of cupboards, whilst a further door opens to the brick arch cellars. The impressive listed staircase with quarter turn balustrade and Mahogany hand rail off the hall splits at a mezzanine level to one of the bedrooms.

A charming decorated period alcove is situated on the first floor landing along with the principal bedroom, three further bedrooms and family bathroom, all enjoying panoramic views across the gardens.

A further matching staircase leads up to the second floor accommodation which includes the remaining bedrooms, second bathroom and useful kitchenette, leading out onto a roof

terrace. The residence is well presented throughout with classically proportioned rooms.

Twin timber electric gates open over a cattle grid onto a gravelled driveway flanked by coach lamps with laurel hedging to the boundaries leading down to a sculpted parking area in front of the property. A further gravelled driveway continues to a triple bay brick car port with playroom above having electricity and water.

The house sits comfortably within its own impressive manageable grounds featuring sweeping lawns around two good sized wildlife pools. A flagstone terrace sitting to the rear and side of the property is edged by a balustrade with lantern lighting and steps down onto the lawn. There are many specimen trees including Yew, Willow, Holly, Cedar, Redwood, Ginkgo, Birch, Pine and Cherry giving the garden a mature parkland feel whilst an ornate metal bridge, by an antique style lamp post, leads across the stream between the two pools. There are a number of outbuildings including a large timber shed, boat house and duck house.

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MOTING NEWS AND REVIEWS CHRONICLE MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Hyundai is hitting the Sante Fe trail

NOT long ago the easiest way to spark road rage was simply driving a big off-roader through a crowded town centre; everyone thought you were a pretentious poseur.

Now they don't. Or at least, most of them

don't. Today, the off-roader is renamed an SUV, for sport utility vehicle, and we can't get enough of them. So popular are the chunky charms of a modern SUV that buyers are ditching estates and people carriers in their thousands to move up in the world (literally; sitting higher is a big SUV attraction).



The Santa Fe has a higher seat position which makes for a relaxing drive

By Ian Donaldson

Today's SUV helps the switchover too, with lighter bodies and more efficient engines – nearly always a diesel – making them use less fuel than before. And advances in suspension design have banished much of the rock and roll feel that went with off-roaders of old.

The latest Santa Fe from Korean car maker Hyundai shows how far the SUV has come. The last one was a big seller here, with UK buyers taking a third of all sales across Europe and added features mean the newcomer might do better still.

Improving

For the first time the Santa Fe can be had with two-wheel drive; cutting the off-road ability of the previously four-wheel drive only range but cutting the cost and improving economy. Even so, sales are expected to be overwhelmingly all-wheel drive models.

Prices start at £25,495 for a two-wheel drive version and rise to the £34,395 asked for a seven seat Santa Fe with auto gears and all the bells and whistles.

Talking seats, the seven seat Santa Fe makes a much more style conscious statement than the slab-sided people carriers that big families often have to pick as their personal transport. The

latest interior finds a bit more space than before in a body a little longer and wider but lower than the outgoing Santa Fe and a whole lot better looking, with crisp, flowing lines and well placed locks of chrome adding an upmarket feel.

It's diesel only under the bonnet as we Brits leave thirsty petrol SUVs to the newly minted millionaires of China and the Middle East, the 2.2 litre engine in the new Santa Fe is a lusty performer but you're never in any doubt that diesel runs in its veins, with a chuntering soundtrack in the background.

The lazy charms of a biggish diesel match perfectly to an automatic gearbox and the test car was as relaxing as can be, even when brushing off the hills and hollows of a modestly demanding off-road course laid on for my drive. It returned 35mpg on my shortish test drive.

Among the safety features of every new Santa Fe is trailer stability assist, which brakes individual wheels on the car to settle things down if it senses things are beginning to snake a bit behind.

Hill start assist keeps the brakes on for a second or two while your foot flees from brake to accelerator pedal on a slope, while the commanding driving position that

comes with all SUVs makes judging the road ahead a bit more relaxing than in cars with seats nearer the ground.

The midrange spec of the £31,895 auto Premium test car lacked for little. Standard kit includes satellite navigation, reverse parking camera, dual zone climate control, leather seat trim and self-leveling rear suspension.

Every Santa Fe has heated front seats, Bluetooth connectivity and a bonnet that pops up at the rear in a pedestrian collision to minimise head injuries.



Gadgets and gizmos include satnav and dual zone climate control

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si Manual in mpg (l/100km): Urban 42.2 (6.7), Extra Urban 57.7 (4.9), Combined 50.4 (5.6). CO2 emissions: 129g/km.

Model shown: Jazz 1.4 i-VTEC Si in White Orchid Pearl at £15,000 On The Road. **Terms and Conditions:** New retail Jazz Si registrations from 19 September 2012 to 31 December 2012. Subject to model and colour availability. Offers applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoter's absolute discretion. **Honda Aspirations (PCP):** £159 per month example shown based on Jazz 1.4 Si Manual in metallic paint with 3 years' 0% APR with 27% deposit. Annual mileage of 10,000. Excess mileage charge 3p per mile. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due. The vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage of 10,000 has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc, 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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Fuel consumption figures for the new CR-V Range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 28.0 - 43.5 (10.1 - 6.5), Extra Urban 43.5 - 55.4 (6.5 - 5.1), Combined 36.7 - 50.4 (7.7 - 5.6). CO2 emissions: 180 - 149 g/km.

New CR-V range from £21,395 On The Road. Model shown for illustrative purposes: CR-V 2.0i-VTEC EX Manual in Passion Red pearl at £29,400 On The Road including metallic paint.

CHRONICLE MOTORING Powered by motors.co.uk



The British-built hatchback will be unveiled at the Paris motor show

New Toyota Auris to reach showrooms in December

TOYOTA has released prices and specifications for the new Auris, which will go on sale in the UK in December.

The British-built five-door hatchback, which made its world debut at the Paris motor show last week, will be launched in a four-grade line-up with on-the-road prices from £14,495.

Options

All of the powertrain options will be available from the start of sales: 1.33 Dual VVT-i and 1.6 Valvematic petrol and 1.4 D-4D diesel units, plus

Auris Hybrid with Hybrid Synergy Drive. The petrol and diesel models all use a six-speed manual transmission, with Toyota's Multidrive S CVT offered as an option on the 1.6 Valvematic.

Auris Hybrid uses an E-CVT automatic.

The new Auris will introduce a new Toyota grade structure, which rises from an entry-level Active trim, through Icon and Sport to the top-of-the-range Excel.

The 1.33 Dual VVT-i engine will be available in Active and Icon grades; the

1.6 Valvematic in Icon, Sport and Excel; and the 1.4 D-4D in all trims. Auris Hybrid will be offered in Icon and Excel versions.

Standard

All new Auris models will be equipped as standard with seven airbags, a new follow-me-home lighting system, hill-start assist control, vehicle stability control and LED daytime running lights.

Prices start from £14,495 for the Active 1.33 Dual VVT-i to £21,745 for the Excel Hybrid Synergy Drive.

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Hot on the streets – the Kia City's low emissions means road tax and congestion charge exemption

Kia's slick City is latest to join Originals collection

Kia's new three-door Pintano City is the latest model to grace the firm's Originals collection. On sale now, the car is priced from £10,245.

According to Kia, the 'Originals' models stem from the idea of a fashion collection – being frequently updated with distinct styles and personalities.

This new Pintano Original features a red grille, 14in alloy wheels, chrome door handles, heated door mirrors and front fog lights. Metallic paint is a standard feature and the model is available in Blaze Red or Bright Silver. Its high specification also includes reversing

sensors. The car's interior boasts premium cloth upholstery, ample storage for personal items and a leather-trimmed steering wheel with audio controls.

Features unique to the City include ambient LED lighting, while Blunkett connectivity allows the driver to make hands-free calls via voice recognition and stream music wirelessly.

Powered by Kia's low-emitting three-cylinder 1.0-litre petrol engine, the City produces 67.3 mpg on the combined cycle, making it exempt from road tax and London's congestion charge.

Comprehensive safety features include electronic stability control,

vehicle stability management and hill assist control. Significantly, City is fitted with cornering brake control, which is a first in the Pintano range.

With six airbags, the City is extremely safe and is also equipped with five three-point seatbelts all round, making it one of the few five-seaters in its class.

The car is covered by Kia's seven-year warranty and owners can cover the first three services of the car with Kia Care-3 service package for £269.

The Pintano City is one of the first models to adopt Kia's new re-designed bonnet badge, which will adorn new models over the coming months.

Equipment upgraded as Lexus joins the Smart set



Lexus have put a £21,995 price tag on the entry level S grade which is available to order now

Lexus has introduced a new entry-point S grade to CT 200h range, making the car accessible to even more customers.

And with it being fitted with new 15in five-spoke alloy wheels and a larger rear spoiler, the new CT 200h achieves even lower CO2 emissions – 87g/km.

The entire Lexus CT 200h model range has been significantly revised for

2013, with an increase to five model grades.

Small but important equipment changes have been made with the realignment of the grade structure: Premier (replacing SE-L Premier) gains a DAB digital tuner and electric front passenger seat adjustment; F Sport likewise adds an electric passenger seat control plus Smart Entry and Start; Luxury (replacing SE-L) adds power-folding door mirrors and Smart Entry and Start; and SE (replacing SE-

I) benefits from power-folding door mirrors. All these models come with a revised front armrest with additional soft padding.

The satellite navigation system that is available as an option for SE, Luxury and F Sport models and is standard on the Premier grade, now comes with a DAB digital tuner and single-disc DVD player.

Available to order now, the entry-level S grade kicks the range pricing off at £21,995.

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Fine start to season continued by ladies

Halas Hawks Ladies 4 Leamington 1

HALAS HAWKS Ladies continued their steady start in the Birmingham County Womens Premiership League with a fine win over Leamington.

Despite having the lion's share of possession, they were finding it hard to create chances but Katie Monk gave them a first-half lead with a free-kick which found the top corner.

Leamington scored an equalising goal with a scramble, but with Tracey Haycock and Amy Smalley dominant in midfield, it was only a matter of time before the goals came and a further three were scored by Haycock, Tash Berry and Smalley.

Girls League Hasbury U15 5 Halas Hawks U15 2

Despite the scoreline, both teams were evenly matched during the first half with Halas leaving the pitch in the lead.

However, they could not maintain their momentum and clinical finishing from the Hasbury team punished Halas. Both the visitors' goals came from Amy Blake-moore, and there was a good performance from Megan Hipkiss.

Withymoor Colts U17 0 Halas Hawks U17 6

Halas took control of the game from the first whistle and were rewarded with some fine goals, all from different players. On the score-sheet were Kate Hunnisett, Liz McAleenan, Elisha Rose, Kate Drew – a superb individual effort – Kelly Gorman and Kate Duffy.

Boys League Billbrook East U9 1 Halas Hawks East U9 7

The under-nines East produced their best performance of the season.

Luke Nock scored a superb first-half hat-trick and Halas led 3-1 at the break. In the second half Connor Chater scored two quick goals. Aiden Mitton scored and Josh Thompson finished it off with a fine free-kick.

Tom Powell was commanding in defence.

Billbrook West U10 1 Halas Hawks West U10 2

A fine solo goal from Jayke Adams and a Jai Chana strike gave Halas victory.

Team Dudley U15 1 Halas Hawks U15 4

A Charlie Bagley hat-trick effectively sealed this cup tie. Adam Higginson scored a fine solo goal.



Tipton's Jack Stone (in blue) heads the ball clear



Keeper Jack Hayfield holds on under pressure from Nathan Rose-Laing



AFC Wulfs' Tom Ray wins a heading duel

Surprise exit for Town in front of large crowd

TIPTON TOWN suffered a surprise FA Vase exit as they were beaten 3-0 in front of a large crowd at the Castlecroft Stadium.

The hosts made a bright start and went close early on when Nathan Rose-Laing fired over after linking up well with fellow striker Andy Thompson.

Tipton hit back with Nigel Penney firing wide after Tom Tonks' long throw had caused problems.

Wulfs were then grateful to keeper Danny Tipton for making two excellent saves, the first after Karl Edwards had been put clear and then with an instinctive block from Richard Huckfield's close-range header.

Mike Robertson saw a 25-yard daisy-cutter go just wide for Wulfs before Tipton wasted another good opportunity when Penney capitalised on a defensive slip but fired wide with just the keeper to beat.

Advancing

Wulfs slowly began to take control and went close when Jake Sedgemore's free-kick was tipped over by Jack Hayfield.

The crucial first goal came in the 34th minute for the home side. Thompson fed Rose-Laing and continued his run to get on to the return pass and slide the ball past the advancing keeper.

Tipton appeared shocked and Rose-Laing had a great chance to double the advantage when he fired over after good work from Robertson, but they did not net a second goal four minutes before the interval.

Sedgemore's corner was only half-cleared and

AFC Wulfrunians 3 Tipton Town 0

Robertson returned the ball into the middle where Tom Ray swept home from 10 yards.

Tipton almost fell further behind seconds after the restart when Thompson's speculative long-range strike was brilliantly kept out by Hayfield.

After surviving that, Tipton enjoyed their first spell of real pressure with substitute Jay Chambers heading wide and Jake Foster throwing himself at a header which flew straight at the keeper.

Wulfs gave the visitors a reminder of their attacking prowess when Robertson's deep cross was headed back across goal by Thompson but his effort dropped just past the far post.

Lewis Haycock headed over from a good position as Tipton continued to search for a way back into the game.

After soaking up the pressure, Wulfs effectively killed Tipton off with a third goal in the 73rd minute, Thompson's low cross converted at the far post by Rose-Laing.

'Legendary' club kitted out for new season



Bustleholme under-15s display their current haul of silverware and show off their new sponsored kit

YOUNGSTERS in one of Bustleholme's many teams are tackling the season in new home and away kit.

Mark Belcher, assistant manager of the under-15 side, approached car dealers Arnold Clark for help.

Dean Ward, general manager of

Arnold Clark West Bromwich Motorstore, said: "Bustleholme FC is legendary around this area, and with their dedication to sport and children's welfare within the area they deserve the support of local businesses."

Bustleholme FC were established in

1975 and now run more than 15 boys, girls and open-age sides. Former players include Wolves legend Steve Bull and David Burrows of Liverpool.

The under-15s, four-time league winners, have won all four matches so far this season.

Depleted side in a fruitless long trip

North Staffs 5 Old Halesonians 1

OLD HALESONIANS hockey seconds are still awaiting their first points of the season after this defeat at recently-relegated North Staffs.

Mark Rigby's side took on their longest trip of the season with a bare 11 players due to injuries and unavailability.

The young side soon found themselves three down after a set of defensive errors and clinical finishing by the well-drilled Stoke based side.

Slowly, Hales began to find their feet and their efforts were almost rewarded when a short corner routine found a player's body on the line, leading to a penalty stroke being awarded.

Hales failed to capitalise though, as Mike Wattle's flick agonisingly rebounded off the post.

However, they were soon to be rewarded for their attacking efforts, as the impressive Nathan Whitehouse converted an excellent first-time effort to get them on the scoresheet.

Hales continued to press at the start of the second half.

However, an error from their keeper Steve Charlton saw Staffs increase their lead.

His kick could only find a North Staffs forward who had time to pick his spot.

Hales' heads dropped and the rest of the game saw North Staffs in control, scoring one more and seeing Charlton save a penalty stroke.

Old Halesonians Ladies 2 Kings Heath Ladies 5

The ladies first struggled to take control of this game and were beaten comfortably by Kings Heath.

Hales were 3-0 behind early on.

But they were able to keep any hopes of a comeback alive when striker Annie Smith found the net.

However, Kings Heath regained their three-goal lead before half-time, leading 4-1 at the break.

The second half saw a stronger Hales performance but it was all too late, especially when the visitors extended their advantage to 5-1.

Smith was able to grab a consolation late on, scoring her second of the game to make it 5-2.

Other results: Sutton Coldfield 8 Old Halesonians thirds 1, Old Halesonians fifths 0 Rugby & East Warwick 0, Lichfield Badgers 3 Old Halesonians Badgers 4.



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Surprise exit for
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Page 39



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Tight tie is poised as Bees lead way

Coventry 51 Birmingham 45
BIRMINGHAM go into tonight's Knockout Cup speedway semi-final second leg against Coventry with the tie poised on a knife edge.

Two match race wins under the new cup format – by Josh Auty over Scott Nicholls and Ben Barker against Chris Harris – helped the Bees' advantage to just six points.

Despite a 5-1 from Nicolas Covatti and Martin Smolinski in the second race, the Selco Brummies found themselves eight behind as many races gone.

Auty's win closed the gap to five before Coventry stretched 11 points clear. Then it was the turn of Barker to drag three points back. And a final race 4-2 for the visitors left the tie beautifully poised.

Auty and Barker combined for 24 points, reserves Smolinski and Covatti were both impressive, although Danny King and Sebastian Ulemek did struggle.

Brummies team boss Phil Morris said: "If the boys want extra meetings then we have to win it and get to the final."

Josh Auty, battling a wrist injury, hopes to be fit for the match.

Birmingham: 1 Danny King, 2 Josh Auty, 3 Ben Barker, 4 rider-replacement for Brian Pedersen, 5 Seb Ulemek, 6 Martin Smolinski, 7 Nicolas Covatti.

Coventry: 1 Chris Harris, 2 Aaron Summers, 3 Eddie Kennett, 4 Kemi Larsen, 5 Scott Nicholls, 6 Adam Roynon, 7 Michal Szczepaniak.

Heathens in back us plea

DUDLEY Heathens are urging fans to back their bid for National League title glory when they stage the home leg of the grand final against Mildenhall at Wolverhampton next Tuesday.

It's the biggest night for the club since they rose from the ashes of the old Cradley outfit three seasons ago.

They are also hosting the second leg of the National League Knockout Cup final immediately afterwards as part of a double-header with the Fen Tigers.

Heathens booked their play-off final place at Stoke last Wednesday, 24 hours after edging the first leg of the semi-final by a point.

The final starts at 7.30pm. Heathens then chase a 28-point deficit in the second leg of the cup final.

The play-off return against Mildenhall takes place the following night.

Yeltz fail to hold on after finding net first

Gresley Rovers 3 Halesowen Town 2

HALESOWEN slipped to their second defeat in three games despite again taking the lead.

The depleted Yeltz had two new signings in Joe Hull and Gavin Winsper making their debuts on Tuesday night.

Halesowen started well with Ben Haseley going close early on, although Michael Nottingham headed a free kick just over for the hosts.

But Halesowen did take the lead on 25 minutes when Jean Michel-Gueyes was twice tripped in the box and the referee pointed to the spot, Luke Corbett netting

Halesowen Town

the penalty. Gresley bounced back with a neat shot from Marc Goodfellow on the edge of the area five minutes before the break, giving goalkeeper Paul Evans no chance.

The home side had the better of the second half and took the lead on 70 minutes when Goodfellow picked out Richard Hanslow who controlled the ball superbly before clipping it over Evans.

The visitors went close to grabbing an equaliser when Haseley ran in at the far post and connected with Craig Milligan's corner from the right but hit the side-netting.

Gresley made it three when Hanslow robbed the Halesowen defence before shooting across Evans and into the far bottom corner.

Haseley got a consolation for Halesowen in injury time when he converted a cross from substitute Dan Evans.

Stamford 4 Halesowen Town 1

Halesowen Town suffered their first away defeat of the season in Lincolnshire on Saturday despite taking a first-half lead.

The Yeltz could not hold on after Luke Corbett had put them ahead on 25 minutes.

He drove home the rebound from his initial header after being set up by Ben Haseley. But Halesowen, who were suffer-

ing from an injury jinx which has beset new manager John Hill since he took over, found it hard to keep the lead for so long.

Lewis Hamilton equalised on 40 minutes when he forced the ball home after a corner.

The Halesowen defenders disputed the fact it had gone over the line, but the goal was given. Hamilton then scored a neat second on the break on 50 minutes.

Former Halesowen player Andy Hall increased the lead on 60 minutes when he cut in from the left to shoot home.

The scoring, and Hamilton's hat-trick, was completed four minutes later when he capitalised on another quick break.

Holiday coaching for free

A FREE football coaching session is available next week in Halesowen.

Leasowe Sports Centre, in Kent Road, hosts the two-hour event on Monday. It starts at 10am and is open to children aged five to 11.

The session date is part of the FA Tesco Skills Programme which offers 200 coaching sessions with 7,000 across England during the half-term break.

Each session lasts two hours and is led by a fully qualified FA Tesco Skills coach.

Run by the Football Association and funded by Tesco and Sport England, the programme provides free coaching support to children in primary schools, at after-school skills centres and local grassroots FA Charter Standard clubs.

Head coach Martin Preston said: "Our free taster sessions during the school holidays are a fantastic way to get even more children involved in the wider FA Tesco Skills Programme."

"It's a great opportunity for children to get the best specialist coaching while getting fit and active at the same time."

To sign up, visit www.TheFA.com/TescoSkills

Injured Quigley sits out races

LUKE QUIGLEY was forced to sit out the final two races of the 2012 British Superbike Championship after injuring himself at Brands Hatch.

The Brierley Hill rider took a high-speed tumble in Saturday's opening race and injured his left shoulder, meaning he was unable to take any further part in the weekend's action.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettleby, Telford, Thursday, October 18, 2012.

MULUMBU LOSS WILL BE COVERED - CLARKE

STEVE CLARKE believes he has the players to cover the loss of key midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu to the Africa Cup of Nations in the New Year.

The Albion boss is reserving the right to use the January market for any reinforcements he may need now that his lynchpin has booked a place with DR Congo at the finals in South Africa. But Clarke assessed the prospect of Mulumbu's untimely exit back in the summer and concluded there was enough cover to plug the gap.

"We spoke about it at the start of the season," he said. "We knew we had the possibility to lose Youssouf if he decided to come out of retirement, which he did."

"We discussed it and we think we have enough in the squad to cover any absences in January. If not, it's a good month for it because the transfer window is open again and if you need to address the situation you can."

Scored

"Many things can change between now and January but as things stand we're comfortable with the squad we've got."

Mulumbu scored for his nation in a 2-1 defeat to Equatorial Guinea – but Congo held a 4-0 lead from the first leg.

Nigeria have also qualified which could pose a threat to Peter Odemwingie's availability.

Added Clarke: "I'm not really sure about Peter. He hasn't been called up to a Nigeria squad since I've been here."

Clarke is mindful that Mulumbu, a huge hit with the Baggies since signing from Paris St Germain in 2009, will leave when the fixture schedule is at its most hectic.

But that has not been

by Martin Swain

enough to persuade him that the mid-season break, back on the Premier League agenda, would help.

"Whatever we do I hope it's not at the expense of the cups – we've messed around with those enough," he says.

"There are so many different issues. Perhaps a couple of weeks after the festive period...but not at the expense of the FA Cup."

"The danger is you have two weeks off and then it snows so you have more time off. It's a difficult one."

Meanwhile, captain Chris Brunt believes Albion have struck two major deals for the future in securing James Morrison and Jonas Olsson on new long-term contracts.

The key midfielder and defender ended any doubts about their future by agreeing new four-year deals.

And Brunt believes the long-term planning is another major component of Albion's bid for more Premier League progress this season.

"What has been important for us in the last few weeks is getting people like Mozza and Jonas on new long-term contracts," said the Northern Ireland international.

Good form continues as Bulsteel grabs a treble

Old Halesonians 7 Old Silhillians 1

OLD HALESONIANS hockey first team continued their good form when they hosted Old Silhillians.

The visitors took six points from Hales last year but it was obvious from the whistle that history was not going to repeat itself.

Hales attacked and won a penalty corner from which Graham Knight flicked a rebound into the net but the goal was disallowed due to a foul on the Old Sils keeper.

Shortly after player-coach Simon Palmer played the ball into Doug Houghton who drove the ball past a helpless goalkeeper. Soon after, a series of passes led to a touch from captain Chris Whaley which left Tom Bulsteel with just the keeper to beat.

Bulsteel converted a short corner for his second and just before half-time, Chris Wattlely re-entered the game after a break and set up Tom Bolton for his debut first team goal.

The score was 4-0 at half-time but Hales went down to 10 players for bad tackles resulting in yellow cards. The ship was steadied as Woodall found Bulsteel and he in turn found the net to bag his hat-trick.

Old Sils pulled one back from a short corner but Hales struck again through Mark Curzon and Graham Knight.

More hockey – Page 39



Hat-trick hero Tom Bulsteel on the ball in the 7-1 victory over Old Silhillians

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